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What a tragedy!
Adel, a 23-month-old Lebanese girl, was brought to a Christian East Beirut hospital yesterday with her right foot cut off by a piece of shrapnel from an artillery shell that hit her grandparents' house killing her mother, father, two aunts and grandmother. Adel's body is covered by shrapnel wounds. (Reuters wirephoto)

Air fares to Lanka Discount

COLOMBO, April 10, (KUNA): Airlines operating through Colombo to the Middle East have been allowed to give 10 per cent more discount on tickets for Lankan job seekers, government officials said here today.

The officials at the state department for civil aviation said the government has taken this decision following the increase in fare to Middle East from April this year.

Representatives from the local job agencies earlier had protested to the government that this increase will hamper their plans to send more Lankans to the West Asian countries for employment.

3-in-a-bed tale, Bahrain daily suspended

MANAMA, Bahrain, April 10, (AP): Bahrain's Arabic-language newspaper Akhbar Al Khaleej was suspended today for two days allegedly for fabricating a report about an unnamed Bahraini polygamist forcing his two wives to share his bed.

The suspension was ordered by the Information Ministry which complained that the report was "false and unfounded... an affront to public sentiment."

The paper on April 3 prominently played a purported court case in which a Syrian woman had complained about her Bahraini husband forcing her and his second wife to sleep with him at the same time. It identified the second wife only as a Bahraini.

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں
○ افغانستان کا پاکستان کو
لیکھ اور انتہاء
○ پاکستان سلامتی کونسل کا
باجاٹ نہیں کریگا

Shamir's 2-stage plan

WASHINGTON, April 10, (Agencies): Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is urging a two-year "test period" of self-rule for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip before commencing negotiations on the future of the territories.

Shamir said that while "I personally believe it's possible" to someday resolve sovereignty over the disputed land taken by Israel in the Six-Day war of 1967, the Jewish state remains disinclined to return to its pre-war boundaries.

The 73-year-old leader refused to be drawn into an argument with President Bush's administration, which advocates Israel giving up land for peace, insisting that "the parties will have to negotiate and come to an agreement."

Shamir appeared on ABC-TV's "This Week with David Brinkley" on the eve of a private tour of the United States following his talks here last week with Bush, Secretary of State James Baker and congressional leaders.

Shamir renewed his proposal for elections among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza aimed at selecting representatives to negotiate a form of self-rule for the Palestinians under continued Israeli authority in the territories.

He said he wanted to "solve, once and for all" the problem of Arab refugees living under "impossible conditions" and said "I think we have to give them housing."

On the broader question of ending the wave of violence in the territories, Shamir said he envisions negotiations in two stages with the Palestinians.

The first talks, he said, would be designed to achieve "an interim arrangement of self-rule for the Palestinians living in these territories, for a few years."

"This will be a transitional period, a test period, in which we will see if we can live together, walk together, co-operate," he said. "And then after this period, on the third year, we will start a process of negotiations about the permanent status of these territories."

Shamir said his government remains opposed to negotiations with the PLO.

Shamir also claimed he saw no change in the PLO's behaviour and said the organisation still was bent on Israel's destruction.

Two Palestinian leaders yesterday rejected Israeli proposals for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

They said the PLO would not accept a "test period" of self-rule, but would accept a "permanent status" of the territories.

The death toll from yesterday's clash between demonstrators and troops rose to 18, as hospital sources said today two more people had died.

The unrest continued despite official calls for calm, a ban on public gatherings, imposition of a curfew and patrols by soldiers riding tanks.

As many as 1,000 people ignored the restrictions and gathered at the university at midday to "to inform each other about what was going on and decide what to do next," said Zurab Zhankarashvili, a member of the Helsinki watch human rights group, who was at the gathering.

Anne in 'divorce crisis'

LONDON, April 10, (AP): Three London tabloids published front-page headlines today speculating about a possible divorce for Princess Anne, daughter of Queen Elizabeth II, following disclosures about letters to her from a senior royal aide.

"Can this marriage be saved?" asked the Daily Mail.

"Anne divorce crisis at palace" said Today.

"Royal marriage crisis" headlined the Daily Mirror.

The banner headlines were provoked by a Buckingham Palace statement Saturday night that four letters to the princess that had come into the hands of another tabloid, the Sun, were written by the Queen's equerry, Royal Navy Cmdr. Timothy Laurence.

14 missing as ships collide

BELGRADE, April 10, (Reuters): Two Turkish-flagged merchant ships collided in the Adriatic Sea off Yugoslavia today and 14 sailors were missing, Yugoslav port authorities said.

The merchant vessel Deval sank after it was involved in a collision.

Hashish easier to obtain than water

Drug problem increasing in Kuwait

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

IN Kuwait it is easier to obtain hashish than water, according to a 35-year-old heroin addict under treatment at the Psychiatric hospital.

The addict was reluctant to talk at first, but gradually volunteered to discuss his 20-year history of drug addiction.

He said that he is now a heavy smoker of ordinary cigarettes, and feels very sad about losing his job. His "down-hill" life began at an early age when he took up drinking alcohol and was shunned by his family. Later, he sought the company of friends, who encouraged him to take hashish.

Dr Moustafa Ibrahim of the Psychiatric hospital, who attended the interview, said that lack of a congenial family atmosphere, influence of bad friends, an affluent society, and lack of motivation have all contributed to the increase of the drug problem in Kuwait.

Tehran frees 70 POWs

Ties after US sets aside hostility: Iran

ATHENS, April 10, (Agencies): Tehran said on the ninth anniversary of the severance of US-Iranian ties that a resumption of relations with Washington may be possible under certain conditions.

Tehran Radio said in a commentary yesterday that the United States has "gradually sought to resume diplomatic relations with Islamic Iran," but ties would "not be practical" until hostility between the two countries "is set aside."

The broadcast, monitored in Athens, did not say when Washington made moves to resume ties with Iran, but diplomatic sources inside and outside Iran have reported that Tehran and Washington made secret contacts, through third countries, over the past year.

The secret contacts appeared to be part of Iran's general policy of "opening to the West." The policy suffered a setback when Ayatollah Khomeini issued a death edict against Salman Rushdie, the British author of the novel "The Satanic Verses." The death threat touched off an international outcry, and 14 Western states withdrew their top envoys from Tehran in protest.

But the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) yesterday quoted the Iranian Foreign Ministry as saying four European states, "Spain, Greece, Sweden and West Germany, have quietly sent back their envoys to Tehran."

Iran chose the ninth anniversary of the break in diplomatic relations between Tehran and Washington to hint in the radio commentary that a resumption of ties was possible under certain conditions.

Tehran Radio said yesterday Iran "wants to have sound and friendly relations" with all countries except South Africa and Israel, but would not accept a "wolf-sheep relationship" with any state.

"From the point of view of the Islamic republic, the establishment of relations will not be practical until an atmosphere is created in which hostility is set aside," the broadcast said.

Meanwhile, Iran today released 70 sick and disabled Iraqi prisoners captured during the Gulf war but four refused to be repatriated and requested political asylum, the IRNA reported.

Iran said the unilateral release of Iraqi prisoners was to mark its National Day on April 1.

Mandela's cousin killed

JOHANNESBURG, April 10, (Reuters): A cousin of black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela was killed by South African police last week, a family spokesman said today.

Jackson Nkosiyan, 74, was killed when police opened fire and hurled grenades into a shack in Soweto last Wednesday, Fatima Meer, a spokeswoman for Mandela's wife, Winnie, said.

The police said in a routine bulletin on political unrest last week that "two terrorists were killed in a shoot-out with the police." They did not name the dead men.

Police said they opened fire and hurled grenades into the shack after an occupant fired on them with an AK-47 rifle.

Meer said Nkosiyan, a tribal chief from the nominally independent Transkei homeland where Mandela was born, had come to Johannesburg for medical treatment.

Mandela is serving a life sentence in prison for plotting to overthrow white rule.

Arafat in Poland

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrived in Poland yesterday for a two-day visit which is expected to bring agreement on upgrading a PLO diplomatic mission in Warsaw to an embassy. The official PAP news agency said Arafat was greeted at Warsaw airport by communist leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski. Palestinian officials said the two would later discuss the Middle East peace process and relations with Poland. (Reuters wirephoto)

The official added that the true number of addicts is bigger than hospital figures show. Those patients now in the hospital may represent one per cent of the addicts, he said, adding that this is because patients who might have reported fear that they will be prosecuted.

(Continued on Page 4 Col. 7)

Scattered shelling Fears of renewed violence in Beirut

BEIRUT, April 10, (Agencies): Scattered shells hit Christian areas of Beirut today amid fears that French ships carrying supplies to Lebanon would reignite fierce artillery battles.

A few shells hit a coastal highway north of Beirut in the Christian enclave after an overnight bombardment of Beirut's Muslim and Christian areas killed one man and wounded 12.

The French ships, a hospital vessel and an oil tanker, are expected on Wednesday on what Paris terms a humanitarian mission but which has drawn strong criticism from Muslims who say France is biased towards the Lebanese Christians.

The bombardment kept thousands of people in shelters, where they have been living for a month through some of the most savage fighting of Beirut's 14 years of civil war.

"Fears of escalation hover over Lebanon," said the independent An Nahar newspaper.

Security sources and West Beirut residents said the Syrian gunners have been shelling Christian areas intermittently over the past five days but Christian leader Army Commander Major General Michel Aoun's troops did not respond until yesterday.

In an interview with Le Figaro newspaper, Deniau, France's special envoy to Lebanon who was on a fact finding mission there last week, indicated that the 12 members of the EEC have voted a resolution calling for the withdrawal of "all non-Lebanese forces" from Lebanon.

And Britain, he went on, is backing France in its decision to bring that Lebanese issue to the United Nations Security Council.

In Beirut, authorities have said they will not be able to supply the nation with electric power for much longer unless fuel oil is made available for the central power plant in Zouk Mikayel.

DAY BY DAY

THE Kuwaiti dailies have turned into evening newspapers during the holy month of Ramadan.

The dailies are available on the newsstands soon after iftar exactly like the evening newspapers in Britain and other countries.

The "inherent magic" of newspapers is that they are avidly sought and looked forward to by readers first thing in the morning, rather than in the evening.

The reason for this temporary situation is the tough competition between the local press - but this time, the competition is against the interests of the readers who desire to be provided with the latest news.

Zahed Matar

Benazir plans visit to US, UK

ISLAMABAD, April 10, (AP): Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto plans to visit the United States to attend Harvard University's graduation exercises June 8, a foreign spokesman announced yesterday.

She also is expected to make official visits to Britain and France during the summer. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said the dates of the European trip have not been set but that Benazir will likely visit those countries in June or July.

Soldiers fire into air to break up Tbilisi rally

MOSCOW, April 10, (AP): Soldiers fired into the air to break up a gathering today at Tbilisi State University, where about 1,000 people had congregated to discuss the Georgian nationalist strike that has left 18 people dead, witnesses said.

Also today, a general strike shut down some stores, factories and mass transit in the Georgian capital, and residents donned black ribbons in a sign of mourning and protest.

The death toll from yesterday's clash between demonstrators and troops rose to 18, as hospital sources said today two more people had died.

The unrest continued despite official calls for calm, a ban on public gatherings, imposition of a curfew and patrols by soldiers riding tanks.

As many as 1,000 people ignored the restrictions and gathered at the university at midday to "to inform each other about what was going on and decide what to do next," said Zurab Zhankarashvili, a member of the Helsinki watch human rights group, who was at the gathering.

"The military stood there with their tanks and frightened the people off. They shot in the air," he said.

Sergei Dandurov, a nationalist activist who also was at the meeting, said some troops jumped out of armoured personnel carriers and began firing into the air. The crowd scattered after a half hour, with some people fleeing into a university building, he said.

Zhankarashvili said soldiers beat two students. The university is closed because of the strike.

The southern republic has been beset by unrest since April 4, when some protesters began a hunger strike. On Friday, an estimated 100,000 demonstrators gathered in Tbilisi.

ARAB TIMES

Grand Bingo

Gone: Top Line. The winner: Dias Ignatius P.C. The prize: KD25. Play on for the three Full House prizes.

INTERNATIONAL

96 militants surrender

Many others in contact with Colombo officials

COLOMBO, April 10, (AP): The government said today that 96 Sinhalese radicals have surrendered to police and the Army, apparently responding to President Ranasinghe Premadasa's amnesty offer.

An official statement said 83 extremists gave themselves up during the week in Anuradhapur and Kurunegala districts in north-central Sri Lanka. Thirteen others surrendered in the southern districts of Monaragala, Galle and Matara, the statement said.

It did not say whether the radicals, who belonged to the Marxist People's Liberation Front, surrendered with their weapons.

The radicals were being fed and clothed by government and non-government organisations, the statement said.

"Information has been received that many others have

made contact with security forces wanting surrender," the government statement said.

Earlier this month, Premadasa proposed a peace package to the left-wing extremists that included general amnesty, parliamentary representation and jobs if they halted their violent attacks.

The extremists have been blamed for more than 2,500 political killings since January. Most victims have been government supporters and security officials.

The front stepped up its violence after the government signed an Indian-brokered peace accord in June 1987 aimed at ending a Tamil rebellion in the northern and northeastern provinces.

The Sinhalese radicals blamed the government for giving too many concessions in the accord to the Tamils, a minority ethnic

group on Sri Lanka.

Tamils, mostly Hindus, comprise 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people. Tamil rebel groups have been fighting for an independent homeland for more than six years.

They allege that Tamils are discriminated against by the majority Buddhist Sinhalese who make up 75 per cent of the population and control the government and military.

Premadasa's peace offer also was made to Tamil rebels but they haven't responded.

Sinhalese rebels say the presence of 50,000 Indian soldiers on the island, deployed under the terms of the Tamil peace accord, compromised the country's independence.

The 6-year-old Tamil rebellion and the Sinhalese backlash have claimed at least 12,000 lives on this tropical island.



Haitian youth loot a store during a lull in the fighting between government troops and rebel soldiers in Port au Prince. (Reuters wirephoto)

Haitian troops appear in control

60 killed in weekend assault

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, April 10, (UPI): Troops loyal to President Prosper Avril appeared to be in control of a key Army barracks following a weekend assault on rebellious soldiers that left an estimated 60 people dead and dozens wounded.

Gunfire again broke out last evening in downtown Port-au-Prince near the national palace, but the reason for the shooting was unclear. No new casualties were reported.

Avril postponed until today a news conference he had planned for yesterday afternoon, and military and political sources said the delay reflected continuing instability in the capital.

Loyalist soldiers of the 1,100-member Presidential Guard appeared to be in control of the Dessalines battalion barracks yesterday, a day after the government said it had retaken the facility and ended a six-day revolt.

About 30 loyalist soldiers and an equal number of Dessalines troops were reported killed since Friday evening, when negotiations broke down and the

Presidential Guard began to shell the facility on the grounds of the national palace, medical sources said.

A reporter for Radio Soleil, the Catholic-run radio station, said 21 people with serious wounds had been admitted to the hospital of the state University of Haiti, the largest civilian facility on the island nation, since Friday night.

A doctor working for the Haitian Red Cross said he had taken many other wounded soldiers on Saturday to Port-au-Prince's half dozen private hospitals.

"There are even two to a bed," said the doctor, who requested anonymity. He said he could not give specific numbers.

Unofficial reports estimated the toll in fighting around the capital before Friday evening at about 12 dead and more than 50 wounded.

The government has not issued a statement on casualties.

North: a pawn in a chess played by giants

WASHINGTON, April 10, (UPI): As his criminal trial entered its eighth week today, Oliver North faced the task of persuading the jury that he committed Iran-Contra crimes simply because he was just "a pawn in a chess game being played by giants."

The ex-White House aide was to take the witness stand for a third day today with his lawyer Brendan Sullivan continuing his gentle questioning.

However, chief trial prosecutor John Keiser — like North an ex-Marine who served in Vietnam — was expected to begin what will likely be aggressive cross-examination as early as today afternoon.

In his two days of testimony last week, North looked wounded and sounded abandoned in relating how he carried out a secret, sweeping foreign policy for President Reagan and was left to fend for himself when the scheme was revealed.

To put down the foundation for that argument, North's defence team read into the trial record a 42-page statement detailing a surprising tale of secret administration activities to keep the Nicaraguan rebels alive during a ban on official US aid.

The administration made what the statement called "quid pro quo" deals with as many as 10 nations to supply the rebels with money and weapons in exchange for extra US aid.

Honduras, for example, received more than \$100 million in aid from the United States strictly for helping sustain the Contra base camps in that country.

National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, who served on the Tower board that first looked into the Iran-Contra scandal, suggested yesterday on NBC's "Meet the Press" that the aid to Honduras was a response to cross-border raids by Nicaragua and was a straight quid pro quo for secret aid to the Contras.

Moscow may try to salvage sub parts

Captain among dead

OSLO, April 10, (Agencies): The Soviet Union, worried some of its most advanced military hardware might fall into Western hands, could try to recover parts of a unique submarine from the Arctic seabed, according to Western military analysts and intelligence sources.

The captain of the Soviet nuclear-powered submarine which caught fire and sank off the coast of Norway was among the 42 seamen who died, Tass news agency said today.

Tass said military commanders briefing Soviet journalists in the port of Murmansk had indicated the 27 crew members who survived Friday's accident were in hospital where they were helping the investigation into its cause.

"Forty-two seamen perished out of the 69 crew members, including the submarine's commander," it said. "The remainder are now in hospital. Permission to see them was granted, for a few minutes, and only to members of the government commission."

"There is good reason to believe that the vessel contains some of the most advanced technology that the Soviet Union possesses in this area," said Willy Oestreg, director of the Fridtjof Nansen research institute and an expert on submarines.

The Mike class attack submarine, used to test advanced weapons systems, was the only one of its kind in the huge Soviet Navy. Military analysts have said its loss may have been a major blow to Soviet hopes of keeping pace with NATO in the field.

"You can take it for granted that they are interested in recovering parts of the boat," Oestreg said.

The vessel sank in around 1,500 metres (5,000 feet) of water after an on-board fire and explosion and the huge pressure at those depths means that the hull has almost certainly shattered.

Tass, reporting no signs of a

radioactivity leak in the area, said the submarine's nuclear reactor was shut down before the vessel sank and the torpedoes were designed to withstand the intense pressure of immersion in deep water.

But because of the depths involved, any salvage operation would have to use expensive remote-controlled equipment rather than divers.

"We're not sure how the Mike was being used when it went down but it is possible that they will try and get certain equipment or material back," said one Western intelligence source. "It sank in international waters and that means they might be worried about us getting our hands on it."

Soviet ships and aircraft were still in the area yesterday, some 100 nautical miles south-west of Bear Island.

If the Soviet Union were to attempt a salvage operation, it would not be the first of its kind.

Norwegian scientists said yesterday that surface tests showed no sign of high radiation levels at the site, and they planned to take underwater readings today, weather permitting.

Initial results of water and air tests taken by Norwegian ships and aircraft immediately after the accident showed no sign of high radiation levels. But Norwegian scientists did not exclude the possibility of contamination.

"The tests we have taken were designed to see if there was a radiation release on the surface, but they do not show whether there has been any release further down," said Hans Baarli, director of the Norwegian radiation institute.

Baarli said if the weather permitted, another Norwegian vessel would head for the area today to take deeper samples to check for radiation.

A top-secret US attempt to recover the wreck of a Soviet submarine from the bed of the Pacific in the early 1970s was an expensive failure, costing an estimated \$350 million.

Research report

US crimes on rise

WASHINGTON, April 10, (UPI): Preliminary figures indicate personal and household crime in the United States rose 1.8 per cent in 1988 — matching the 1987 increase — largely because of significant jumps in assaults, burglaries and car thefts, the Justice Department's research arm reported.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics said yesterday an early analysis of its annual national crime survey showed, however, that the overall number of violent crimes and personal thefts committed last year did not show any statistically significant changes.

The semi-annual survey of about 99,000 people ages 12 or older shows a 1.8 per cent increase in personal and household crimes to an estimated 35,989,000 offences in 1988 compared with 35,336,000 in 1987. The 1987 increase also was 1.8 per cent, it said.

The increase reverses a declining trend that began in 1981, said Joseph Bessette, the bureau's acting director. "Crime rates reached their lowest levels in 1986, when there were fewer offences for most categories than at any time since the national crime survey commenced in 1973."

The bureau said some of the crime growth during 1988 could be attributed to an increase in America's population but did not speculate on other factors.

The biggest increase in the victimization rates for violent crimes were in assaults, which rose by six per cent to 4,601,640 including a 9.3 per cent jump in aggravated assaults — 12.8 per cent of which resulted in injuries.

Household crimes increased 2.6 per cent last year, largely because of a 6.3 per cent increase in burglaries and a 9.6 per cent rise in motor vehicle thefts to an estimated 1,066,700 vehicles, the bureau said.

While the number of rapes reported to police showed a 9.3 per cent drop in 1988, the number reported in the victims' survey continued its steady rise — a projected increase of 12.8 per cent over 1987, it said.

It said that only 36 per cent of all projected crimes actually were reported to law enforcement agencies, including 47 per cent of violent crimes.

The preliminary results of the survey do not include all of the data from the last half of 1988, the bureau said. Final results of the survey will be available later this year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Seoul to attend political talks

SEOUL, April 10, (AP): South Korea has decided to attend scheduled political talks with the communist North in Panmunjom on Wednesday, despite controversy over a dissident's illegal trip to North Korea, Vice Unification Minister Song Han-Ho said today.

The decision followed local press reports that Seoul was considering postponing the meeting because of strained relations with the North over dissident leader Moon Ik-Hwan's recent unauthorized trip to Pyongyang.

Fire kills 16 in India

NEW DELHI, April 10, (AP): An oil lamp exploded at a party to celebrate a double wedding, touching off a fire that killed the two brides and 14 others in western India, the United News of India reported yesterday.

The news agency said the accident occurred Friday in Jalali village in Rajasthan state, 480 kilometres (300 miles) southwest of New Delhi.

It said the fire started when a pressure lamp burst and ignited a haystack kept nearby. Several people were injured, the news agency said, but did not give the number.

It said the dead included nine children and five women.

Yugoslavia uses secret ballot

BELGRADE, April 10, (AP): More than 400,000 voters in Montenegro yesterday elected their representative to Yugoslavia's highest body, the collective nine-man state presidency, for the first time by secret ballot.

They had three candidates to choose from — Nenad Bucin, Mijat Sukovic and Dimitrije Baulic. The outcome will be announced today.

It was the first election by secret ballot in Montenegro and only the second such case in communist Yugoslavia.

DAP to seek summit's help

KUALA LUMPUR, April 10, (AP): The opposition Democratic Action Party will seek help from the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Kuala Lumpur in October for the release of two DAP members detained without trial since October 1987, the party chairman said.

The party has formed a 15-member human rights committee to seek national and international support for the effort, chairman Chen Man Hin told a news conference in Penang, 300 kilometres (180 miles) northeast of Kuala Lumpur.

Bomb blast in Athens

ATHENS, April 10, (AP): A bomb exploded outside the apartment of a supreme court judge early today causing damage but no injuries, police reported.

Supreme court judge Samouil Samouil was at home when the blast hit the entrance to his apartment located at the Athens suburb of NEO Psychicho at 1:30 am (10:30 GMT).

Police said no one was injured but other apartments adjacent to Judge Samouil's were damaged as well.

Talks on bases open

ATHENS, April 10, (AP): The 16th round of talks on the future of US military installations in Greece started today with no agreement expected.

The previous round of negotiations aimed at a Defence and Economic Co-operation Agreement (DECA) held in Washington D.C. last month, ended inconclusively as both sides refused to budge from their positions.

Kampuchean talks

BEIJING, April 10, (AP): Kampuchean resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk said yesterday his talks with the Vietnamese-installed Premier of Kampuchea will take at least two days.

Sihanouk has accepted an invitation by Kampuchean Premier Hun Sen to meet in Jakarta, Indonesia, on May 2. Both sides initially spoke only of holding one meeting.

Thatcher set on arms update

LONDON, April 10, (AP): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said yesterday she will continue her campaign for the modernisation of short-range nuclear weapons despite the opposition of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

She said in a television interview that she will again put her case to West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl when she meets him later this month, and to other NATO leaders at their summit meeting in Brussels in May.

"I shall put the argument to him (Kohl) again and again," Thatcher said in a prerecorded interview with TV-AM.

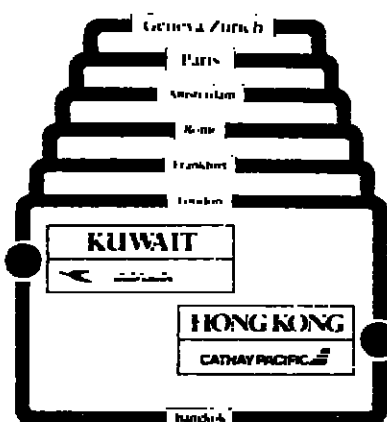
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Scowcroft foresees no dramatic change in US policy towards Soviets

WASHINGTON, April 10, (UPI): President Bush is formulating an approach to US-Soviet relations that balances opportunities for improved relations against doubts about the long-term motives behind Mikhail Gorbachev's dramatic reforms.

Echoing the middle-of-the-road approach recommended in a classified review, National

Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said yesterday he foresees no "sharp, dramatic changes in policy" to warm up to Gorbachev or to exploit the Soviet leader's domestic problems.

"It probably is not surprising that the future looks a lot like the present in sort of a straight-line projection," Scowcroft said on NBC television.

Administration officials con-

firmed Bush received an interagency report last week that recommended a "status quo plus" approach of no major deviations from current policy toward Moscow.

The report represented a middle course between hardliners wary of Gorbachev and others urging Bush to seize the time of reform in the Soviet Union as an opportunity for expanded econ-

omic relations and initiatives in arms control.

Bush shrugged off the criticism the next day, insisting that the Soviets were well aware he would not be pressured to rush into arms negotiations or other major initiatives before a careful and thorough assessment of where US-Soviet relations stand and should be headed in the Gorbachev-era atmosphere of eased

tensions.

Although final decisions on US policy are yet to be made, Scowcroft and Secretary of State James Baker, who appeared on the ABC news programme "This Week with David Brinkley," used the words "prudent," "cautious" and "realistic" to describe how Bush will respond to the moderation of Soviet policy.

هكذا امتنا اصل

Charm going out of snake charming

MOLARBAND, India, April 10, (AP): The charm is going out of the snake charming business, and the remaining practitioners are starting to vanish from the land where their ancient art was born.

Hunger haunts them. Police chase them. Ecologists despise them. People on the street no longer care for them.

"Snake charming is no more a paying profession," said 90-year-old Sunder Nath. "Our children are not interested in snake charming any more. There is not enough money, not enough charm left."

"Our children want to become clerks, bus drivers, even

policemen, but not snake charmers," said Sunder Nath, who walks with the help of a stick but still holds roadside shows.

There are about a half-million snake charmers left in India, and a generation from now there are likely to be far fewer. Many now supplement their snake charming income by collecting snake venom for laboratories and playing their unique musical instrument at marriage festivals.

Molarband, about 35 kilometres (20 miles) south of New Delhi, is one of two villages in India exclusively inhabited by snake charmers. The other is in the east Indian state of Orissa.

About 1,500 snake charmers

live in Molarband in mud-and-stone homes. Every home has 10 to 15 snakes.

"Gone are the days when our children lived with snakes, grew with snakes... Now they are going to schools to learn English," said Prabhu Nath, 50, whose two children attend a government-run school that teaches general subjects not far from Molarband.

All snake charmers take the family name of Nath from their guru and saint, Gorak Nath, who they say lived about 500 years ago.

"When I grow up I would like to become a bus driver," said 15-

year-old Rajpal Nath.

"My friends tell me that snake charming is nothing but another form of begging. I don't want to be called a beggar."

"There is no value in our fathers' work. We are looked down by everyone," added 14-year-old Rameshchandra Nath, who aspires to become a bank clerk.

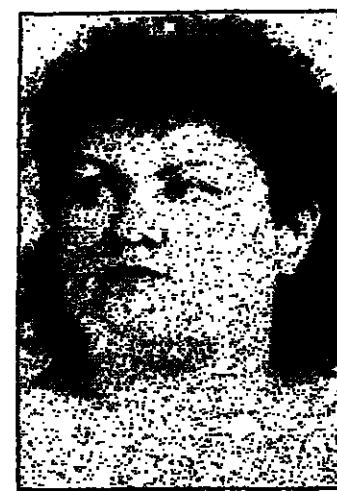
The school near Molarband has 1,500 students. About 250 are from families of snake charmers, hoping to prepare themselves for other professions.

"This is remarkable. Ten years back, we hardly had any student from the snake charmers' families," said school headmaster Ram Lal Longia. There was

little need for snake charmers' children to go to school if they wanted to be charmers themselves.

"There are no new charmers joining the clan. What we have is the old stock," said Komolesh Dev, who has studied the life of the snake charmers in Molarband.

There was a time when snake charmers were part of Indian life. They provided the best and cheapest entertainment," said Dev, who spent months with the snake charmers. Television and other entertainment now have a bigger attraction for Indians, leaving little interest in snake charmers.



Gruber



Leidolf



Wagner

Up to 70 patients killed

Disposing of 'nuisances'

VIENNA, April 10, (UPI): Austrian police announced yesterday they had arrested a 50-year-old state-registered nurse in connection with the earlier confessed murders by lethal injection, as well as other means, of at least 44 patients at Vienna's Lainz Hospital by a ring of three nursing orderlies.

Vienna police chief Guenther Boegi said on nationwide television last night that he feared "there will be new arrests" and said he "could no longer assure that 44" would be the final murder toll.

Earlier, Boegi said that the three female orderlies at the hospital, aged 26, 28 and 30, appeared to be "using the alibi of mercy killing as a defence tactic" to cover their belief that the patients were burdensome.

"This affair has taken on shocking dimensions," he said on Austrian television Orf.

Police announced at a press conference that the ring's 30-year-old "mastermind" came up with the idea in 1983 of systematically murdering patients, and had confessed to killing one patient a month at the outset (1983) but more recently was killing three patients every month on average.

Police said they believed the ages of the victims ranged from 75 to 80 years of age.

Health officials, meanwhile, were poring over hundreds of records of the hospital's Section 5 — where all the murders are believed to have taken place — to see if other irregularities may have been involved in patient deaths over the last six years.

Police announced that a 50-year-old state-registered nurse, Vienna resident Stefanie Mayer, the only one of four suspects who was entitled to give injections, had been taken into custody. Mayer's role in the killings has not been clarified.

The bizarre and grisly case already appears to be

the biggest serial killing in post-World War II Austria, and possibly in post-war European criminal history.

In a case with some similarities a 30-year-old nurse is currently on trial in Wuppertal, West Germany, for the killing of 17 patients in a clinic.

Boegi told Austrian Orf radio yesterday that "their (the orderlies') assertions that it was mercy killing are now being seen as a defence alibi. Maybe at the beginning it was possible (mercy killing) but the deeds in some of the later cases seem to contradict that."

Two of the orderlies had described patients as "nuisances" and "burdens."

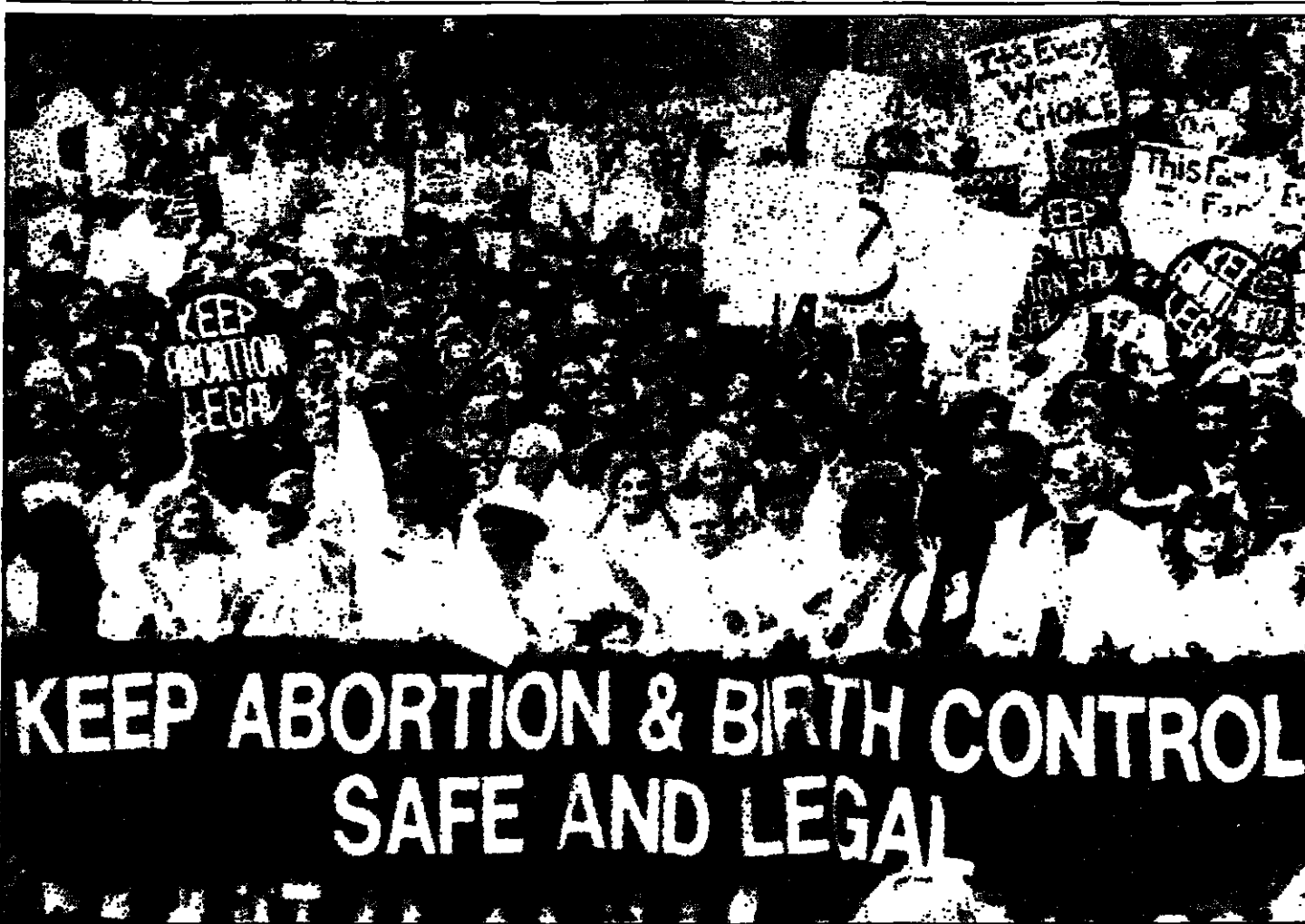
The three confessed murderers, Waltraud Wagner (30), the murder ring mastermind Irene Leidolf (28) and Maria Gruber (26) were arrested last Friday after a hospital official suspected an intentional overdose of insulin administered to two patients last week, one of whom later died.

Wagner has already confessed to as many as 25 killings, according to investigators, who say all of the killings took place in one wing of the hospital which has not the geriatric section.

The three women all have been employed a minimum of eight years, while Wagner, described as the "ringleader" by police, has been working at the hospital since 1976.

Estimates of the number of patients murdered by the women have ranged from 35 up to 70 and even higher.

Wagner, described as a "friendly and helpful" orderly by one Lainz doctors, nonetheless was the subject of a police investigation last year involving the death of an 84-year-old patient from a sleeping pill overdose.



Hollywood stars lead the march on the US Capitol in support of women's right to an abortion.

Abortion is our choice: activists

WASHINGTON, April 10, (AP): With cries of "Choice," and symbolic coat hangers hung from their clothing, at least 300,000 abortion rights activists marched yesterday on the nation's Capitol hoping to avert a return to the days of back-alley abortions.

"We're scared," said Ellen Davidson, a Yale University student, because "we're coming to the realisation that the thing we've taken for granted can be taken away."

The Supreme Court will hear arguments on April 26 in the case that pro-choice and anti-abortion forces agree could significantly alter the 1973 Roe vs Wade decision that gave women the right to an abortion in the United States.

"I'm thrilled to have my baby," said Kristin McNamara, of Maryland, as she wheeled four-week-old Kathryn in a stroller during the march from the Washington Monument to the Capitol. "But I think a woman must have a choice to decide whether and when to have a child."

The women's rights advocates — men and women, Democrats and Republicans, dozens of members of Congress and a host of celebrities — assembled on the Mall at the Washington Monument for the march to the Capitol.

Several delegations of women from countries joined the rally to

Row in Italy over anti-abortion speech

ROME, April 10, (AP): One of Italy's most popular and controversial entertainers touched off a political storm by giving an anti-abortion monologue on a live, state-run television programme that attracted 11.6 million viewers.

Italian newspapers gave front-page coverage yesterday to the furore over the comments by Adriano Celentano on the Friday night prime-time premier of the variety show, "Serata D'Onore" (Night of Honour).

Celentano, a guest star on the programme lived up to his reputation for stirring polemics by delivering a sermon against abortion, an issue that provokes heated debate 11 years after its legalisation in this predominantly Roman Catholic country.

On one hand, the state requires the wearing of seatbelts, which is well needed, to save lives, on the other, it passes a law to kill a child," said the 50-year-old rock singer and actor.

Pro-abortion political parties and feminist groups protested immediately.

"This is a sensational example of bad

propaganda," said Vincenzo Vita, head of the media department of the Communist Party.

"It was a particularly serious and odious act," added another communist official, Ersilia Salvato, "because the attack was launched against a law of the state and because it occurred on public television."

The Communist Party said it planned to file a formal protest in Parliament and demand that Rai air another programme in prime-time to allow pro-choice women to express their views.

Bruno Pelleggrino, a Socialist Party official who is on the board of Rai, said Celentano had misused the public airwaves in another sign of TV's stress on ratings.

Ironically, Celentano made his comments on Rai-2, the station that is closest to the Socialist Party, which sponsored the abortion law passed by Parliament in May 1978.

One of Celentano's few defenders was Roberto Formigoni, leader of the Movimento Popolare, or Popular Movement, an anti-abortion group close to the Roman Catholic church.

demonstrate their concern that if abortion is not kept legal in the United States, other countries will follow that lead.

"It's quite terrifying for us to read about what's happening in the States," said Jo Wainer of Melbourne, Australia. "It really matters to us what you do here, I hope the United States doesn't plummet to Third World status in the treatment of women."

Marchers traded taunts with about 200-300 anti-abortion protesters who stood along the

march route. Police, some on horseback, kept the opposing forces apart.

The anti-abortion activists set up a symbolic "cemetery of the innocents" on the Washington Mall containing 4,400 white wooden crosses and Stars of David. That, organisers said, is the number of unborn children killed daily since the Supreme Court legalised abortion.

At the Capitol, law enforcement authorities estimates the pro-choice crowd at 300,000.

Kodiak safe now

Ship still oozing oil, wildlife in danger

VALDEZ, Alaska, April 10, (UPI): Most of the oil from the biggest spill in US history was adrift in the water or coating shoreline, according to estimates released yesterday, and an aerial inspection of the spill area revealed sea animals and birds swimming in blackened waters without a cleanup boat in sight.

Figures released by the Coast Guard showed that of the 10.1 million gallons that gushed from the tanker Exxon Valdez, 5.67 million were in the water or on shore and 4.41 million had evaporated or been recovered or dispersed.

Oil has fouled 3,000 square miles, including hundreds of miles of shoreline, and strong winds from any direction could send rivers of crude into new unsoiled fiords, rocky beaches and towns dependent on fishing and tourism.

But favourable winds and currents yesterday protected Kodiak, America's No.1 fishing port, from oil that retreated to 60 miles (96 km) away, said Bill Lamoreaux, regional supervisor for the State Department of environmental conservation.

Meanwhile, a small amount of oil appeared to be seeping out of the refloated Exxon Valdez, which still holds 840,000 gallons of oil, while it was anchored in a bay for temporary repairs, Lamoreaux said, adding that Exxon had failed to maintain a boom around the ship.

The first dead whale in the slick was found late Saturday by a fishing boat searching the Prince William Sound. The 40-foot (12-m) barnacle-covered gray whale was roped and towed to a state ferry serving as a mother ship for rescuers.

Wildlife biologists had not determined the cause of death yesterday, but the whale was found in a heavily oiled area near Latouche island. Gray whales return to the area in April to feed.

The first dead seal also was found, blinded and apparently killed by oil, fishermen Paul Kompkoff said in a report to state officials about sickly otters, deer, seals and eagles in oil at Bettles island.

Bald eagles were eating oily birds and two dead eagles were found, said Sheila Nickerson of the state department of fish and game.

Other side of coin: Stalin was a human

Gromyko on the dictator

LONDON, April 10, (AP): World War II Soviet leader Josef Stalin was a harsh man of few words, but he occasionally gave in to softer human emotions, former Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko says in his memoirs.

The first of a series of excerpts from Gromyko's book, "Memories" appeared yesterday in the Observer newspaper.

An example Gromyko gives of Stalin's more human side was in his relations with US President Franklin Roosevelt during the war years as allies during the war. Gromyko was Soviet ambassador to the United States.

During the February 1945 Yalta meeting of Stalin, Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, the US President reacted with calm and "even with understanding" to Stalin's remarks, Gromyko says, but Churchill reacted with barely concealed irritation.

"The British prime minister tried not to show his feelings but his cigars gave him away. He smoked far more of them when

he was tense or excited....

"It should be said in fairness that Stalin had a liking for Roosevelt — which could not be said about his attitude towards the British prime minister," Gromyko said.

At Yalta, Roosevelt became ill one day and the talks were suspended. The President, who had been crippled by polio at the age of 39, lived only two months after the Yalta conference.

Gromyko said he accompanied Stalin on a 20-minute visit to Roosevelt who was in bed in his room overlooking the Crimean Sea and they exchanged remarks about health and the weather and beauty of the Soviet Crimea.

"The President was delighted to see us.... He was clearly tired and drained though he tried not to show it....

"We were descending the narrow staircase when Stalin suddenly stopped, took his pipe out of his pocket, filled it unhurriedly and, as if to himself, said quietly.... 'Why did nature have to punish him so? Is he worse than other people?'"



Escape foiled

One of two young East Germans (right) is surrounded by three border guards after they attempted to flee to West Berlin on Saturday. A guard fired a warning shot (left) and both men were detained unharmed. East German border guards foiled three separate escape attempts at the weekend. (Reuter wirephotos)



Mexican death peddler latched

MEXICO CITY, April 10, (AP): Mexican police have arrested one of the world's most-wanted alleged cocaine dealers, who also has been accused of links to the killing of a US drug agent, the federal attorney general's office said yesterday.

Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo was arrested late Saturday in Guadalajara in the western state of Jalisco, the prosecutor's office said in a statement.

Numerous high-powered weapons were also seized by members of the federal judicial police, the statement said. It said Felix Gallardo put up no resistance.

Felix Gallardo, 43, is alleged to run one of the largest cocaine trafficking operations in the world.

US officials investigating the killing of Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique Camarena Salazar in 1985 said Gallardo was able to build up an immense drug operation with protection from high Mexican officials.

DEA agents long had suspected Felix Gallardo of involvement in the slaying, but were unable to locate him.

Felix Gallardo's role in Camarena slaying is not clear, although it is certain he knew about it, according to US embassy spokesman William Graves.

The arrest underlines President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's vow to "fight this social cancer" of drugs, the attorney general's office said.

Jewish refusenik

LONDON, April 10 (AP): Jewish refusenik Georgy Samoilovich, who sought permission to leave the Soviet Union for 10 years, arrived in London for medical treatment yesterday.

"I am very happy to be here. It is a miracle," said Samoilovich, who has throat cancer.

"It is a victory of my friends and a lot of people who have struggled for my freedom in England, the USA and throughout the world."

Samoilovich, 66, was greeted at London's Heathrow airport by supporters from the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry.

Money raised

LONDON, April 10, (Reuters): A charity benefit yesterday raised £100,000 (\$170,000) for ailing British comedy actor Terry Thomas, a victim of Parkinson's disease, organisers said.

Terry Thomas, star of the 1960s comedy films *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World*, and *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines*, was too ill to attend the show in a London theatre.

British show business celebrities decided to hold the benefit after newspapers published photographs of the 77-year-old actor looking emaciated and huddling in a blanket in a run-down London apartment.

Vendetta killings

REGGIO DI CALABRIA, Italy, April 10, (AP): Gunmen killed three people yesterday morning and another late Saturday in four separate shootings that police linked to underworld feuds and vendettas.

Police said the killings occurred within 12 hours and raised the murder toll so far this year to 49 in Calabria, the violent province at Italy's southern tip.

Investigators blamed the N'drangheta, the name of the Calabrian underworld, for all four killings.

Early yesterday morning, police said a sharpshooter standing on a terrace 40 metres (yards) away shot and killed Romeo Marvaso, 38, in Piana di Gioia Tauro.

Gravely ill

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, April 10, (AP): The condition of former President Jose Figueres — considered by many to be the father of Costa Rican democracy — has improved slightly, but he remains gravely ill, his doctor said yesterday.

"He is still in serious condition. Although he has improved slightly, he is still not out of danger and we are treating a kidney infection," said Dr Jaime Gutierrez.

Gutierrez said the 83-year-old former president was admitted on Friday night to San Juan de Dios Hospital after suffering severe chest pains and kidney problems.

11th commandment

CRAWLEY, England, April 10, (Reuters): A Roman Catholic priest has written an 11th commandment — "Thou shalt not even think of parking here."

The gospel according to Father Matthew McInerney is emblazoned on a notice board outside his church in Crawley, southern England.

The new edict has yet to strike fear for motorists who still park in front of the church, blocking funeral hearse.

Jewellery robbed

HONG KONG, April 10, (AP): Three robbers held up a shop in a hotel yesterday and escaped with jewellery worth 10 million Hong Kong dollars (\$1.28 million).

Police said the robbers, two of them armed with pistols, burst into the shop at the Hyatt Hotel and forced the six employees and two Japanese women shoppers to lie on the floor.

Death in coal mine

BEIJING, April 10, (Reuters): At least 19 miners were killed in an explosion at a coal mine in China's northern Hebei province, National Radio said yesterday.

The blast on Saturday at the mine in Luanning county, near Beijing, injured nine people and four more were missing. The report said authorities were still investigating the cause.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Planning course

KUWAIT, April 10, (KUNA): Interior Undersecretary Major General Yousef Al Khorafi yesterday opened a course for planning and administrative sciences, jointly sponsored by the Ministries of Interior and Planning.

In his inaugural address, Khorafi affirmed that planning is a vital element in any kind of work, stressing that an unplanned action is doomed to failure.

Interior Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative and Financial Affairs Abdulla Al Hudaid said that planning is now one of the main parts of the development strategy.

He noted that the state now follows a serious and clear course, which requires all officials to direct all capabilities toward this goal, affirming that good intentions and enthusiasm are no longer enough to back up the state's aspirations.

The course, in which a number of officers of the various departments of the Interior Ministry take part, includes a number of topics such as planning awareness and the planning process in the security sector.

Woman sentenced

KUWAIT'S Court of Misdemeanours sentenced a woman to one month in prison and two others to a fine of KD 50 each for publicly slandering a police officer.

The court was told that the three defendants were brought to the police station for suspicion of theft. At the station they used abusive language and the principal accused tore off her own clothes in order to incriminate the police officer with assault.

The court based its judgement on the testimony of eye-witnesses.

New department

KUWAIT, April 10, (KUNA): Minister of Information Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamed Al Sabah yesterday issued an order setting up a new department for legal affairs to be responsible for legislation, conventions and legal advice.

The new department, to come under the Information Ministry's undersecretary will also be responsible for research and financial contracts.

Fog halts traffic

ABU DHABI, April 10, (KUNA): Dense fog early today morning halted air traffic in the Abu Dhabi International Airport, aviation sources said.

They added that incoming flights were requested to land in nearby airports until the fog cleared. By 8 am (local time) air traffic returned to normal after the fog cleared.

The sources noted that a Tunisian plane coming from Tunis via Cairo and a French cargo plane were asked at 6 am to land at the Dubai airport.

Missing ship

ABU DHABI, April 10, (KUNA): Coast Guards are still looking for bodies of the crew of the Maltese ship "Rahoon 3" which capsized off Abu Dhabi shores last week.

The ship's crew of 18, with an Indian captain were of Indian, Filipino and Burmese nationalities. So far only two bodies were recovered.

The ship, which was loaded with scrap metals from Doha port, had sailed from there last March 30 and was scheduled to anchor in Fujairah port, the United Arab Emirates, to re-fuel on its way to India. But it did not arrive in Fujairah.

Navigation sources opined that the ship sank due to storms that hit the area at that time.

Yemen aid

ABU DHABI, April 10, (KUNA): Al Deuran freight ship left Zayed port in Abu Dhabi today heading for Aden carrying 1,000 tonnes of relief materials, to help victims of torrential rains.

Other aid materials ordered by the United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayyan had already reached Democratic Yemen aboard special planes.

The materials include tents, blankets, medicine, water pumps and foodstuff.

Abduction case

By Salem Al Wawan

FIRDOUS police station registered few days ago a strange abduction case in which two girls were involved. It was reported that two men abducted the two girls and took them to the Doha desert. Later, the two men took the girls to an apartment in one of the areas.

It was reported that the two men were leaving their captives in the apartment to go to their work and then come back. They were discovered only when a citizen saw the abduction and reported the plate number of their car to the police. Later the police succeeded in finding the two girls and later arrested the two abductors. The case was referred to Hawali prosecution last week.

Sabah briefs cabinet on recent Lebanese talks

New campus plans reviewed

KUWAIT, April 10, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah presided yesterday over the regular meeting of the cabinet.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed said the cabinet was briefed on a message His Highness the Amir had received from Senegalese President Abdu Dief

expressing his appreciation for the Amir's support to Islamic causes and for his assistance to developing countries.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed briefed the cabinet on the outcome of the recent talks he held in the Syrian capital of Damascus with Lebanese party and national leadership in his capacity as chairman of the Arab

League's Good Offices Committee on the Lebanese crisis.

The cabinet got acquainted with a report prepared by a committee entrusted to consider writing off debts owed the Credit and Savings Bank by families of deceased. The cabinet decided to exempt some families from repaying debt instalments.

The cabinet reviewed a recommendation by the educational,

social and health committee on a six-year plan for increasing the university's intake and establishing a new campus.

The cabinet set up a committee comprising the ministers of public works, planning, Finance, higher education and a representative of the Central Tenders Committee to undertake execution of the project.

The cabinet also endorsed

recommendations by the permanent ministerial committee on following up Kuwait's contribution to international Islamic and specialised regional organisations providing for continuation of contributions.

Minutes of the extraordinary meetings of the municipality committee and other local issues were also discussed by the cabinet.

Videotex provides access to information

130,000 pages available

THE Visual Information Centre at the Ministry of Communications, Salmiya division is one of the government branches which provides residents with important services.

Mehzom Mohammed Al Atiqi, the operation controller at the centre, described the "Videotex" facility as one which usually gives subscribers the advantage of easily accessing any type of data.

As an example, he cited how subscribers could obtain information on procedures for getting or renewing their Civil ID cards or driving licences. Additionally, Videotex can provide other information related to air traffic, weather conditions, world news, bank balance, and the privilege of buying a specific commodity without even leaving the house. It is a boon to most businessmen in the country, he added.

Data bank

Subscribers are provided information from a central data memory bank. Presently, such information can be obtained for 18 hours daily, which is expected to be increased soon to 24 hours daily.

The system has more than 130,000 pages of information and can be used as a transmitting and a receiving device simultaneously. It can be used to contact the rest of the world.

First batch of Indian workers leave for home

850 to exit end April

By Fathima Ahmed Arab Times staff

THE first batch of the 900 wageless Indian workers left Kuwait after receiving two months back wages. They were paid between KD 70 and KD 300, depending on their job description. A total of 49 workers, selected at random, were repatriated on an Air India flight on Sunday night.

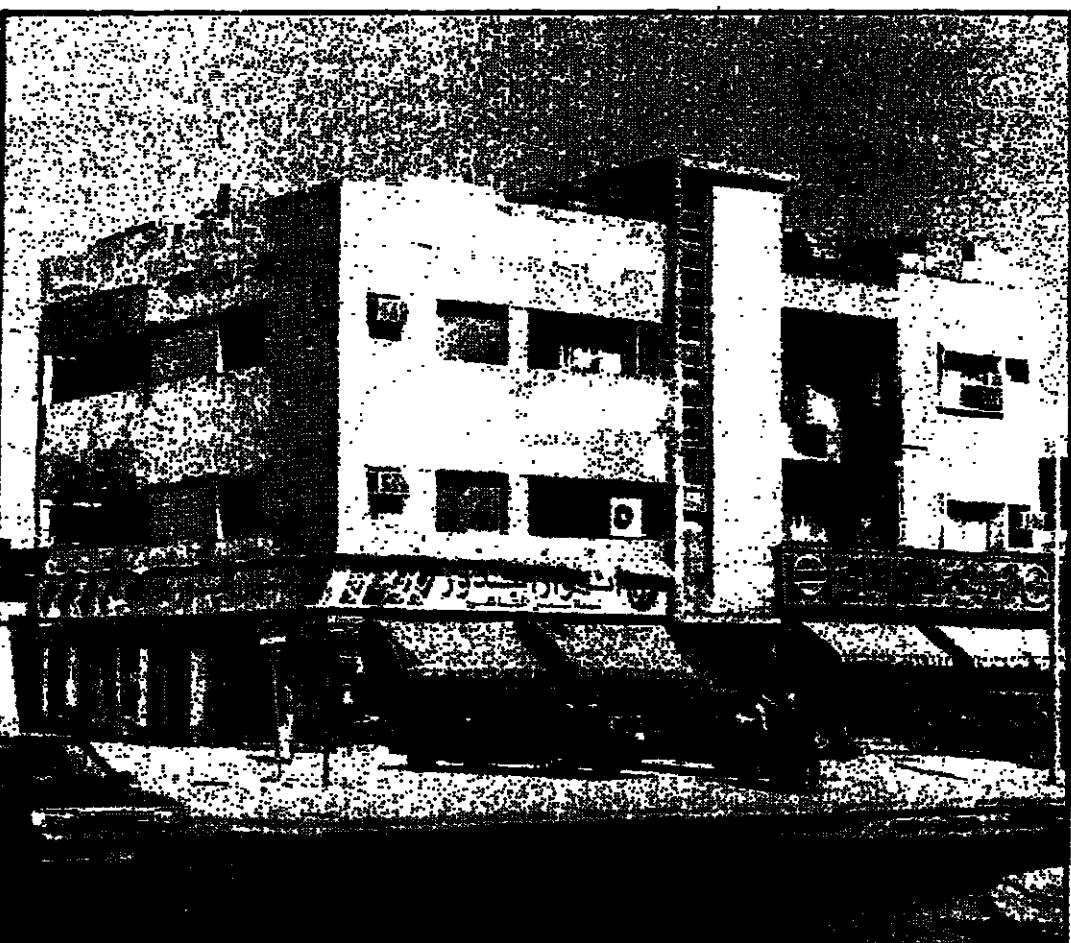
More than 850 workers, who are still in Kuwait, are expected to be repatriated in batches of between 50 and 100 by the end of the month, it was learnt.

Indian diplomats, working in close co-operation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, are preparing the details to send back the workers. The next batch of 100 workers is to leave within 10 days.

The 900 Indian labourers, recruited by Simran Construction and Kureishi Construction, arrived in July/August 1988 to work on a section of the Al Qurain housing project and had struck work for the second time in January to demand four months back wages. The dispute was settled last month after extensive

negotiations and the contractor agreed to pay two months wages and the cost of repatriation. The workers may get two more months back wages if they win a case, now pending in a labour court in Kuwait.

An Indian government delegation, led by the labour secretary, is expected to visit the Gulf later this month to review the problem of Indian workers. The issue of pre-paid air tickets for Indians recruited by Gulf employers is one of the main items on their agenda. The delegates will visit all the Gulf states.



One of the old buildings in Kuwait that requires renovation.

500 buildings to be totally renovated

By Jamal Amin

KUWAIT'S Municipality has devised a two-fold plan to provide buildings with exterior remodeling services.

Speaking on the subject, Osama Al Duaij, head of the Renovation and Remodelling of Buildings Division at the municipality said that the plan has been implemented in Hawalli, Salmiya and Kuwait City. The buildings involved related to commercial and real estate investment.

He added that priority in the plan has been accorded to commercial buildings, investment housing buildings, and model housing areas.

The survey carried out revealed that as many as 40 to 45 per cent of the total number of buildings in Hawalli, Salmiya and Kuwait City required external renovation services.

Deadline

Owners of buildings who fail to carry out the required renovations of their building within the deadline provided, will then have to bear the costs of such renovation which will be carried out by

the municipality, in accordance with the ministerial decision issued in this regard.

Duaij stressed that work on private or model housing areas will begin according to plan and called on all building owners to co-operate with the municipality as the renovation services are aimed at ameliorating the outlook of buildings which emphasise the architectural character of the country.

Explaining the plan, the official said that the present "urgent" plan aims at improving the present condition of old buildings, while another long term plan aims at finding comprehensive solutions to the problem.

He said that the municipality is facing no major obstacles in implementing the renovation plan. He warned building owners who do not respond to the municipal orders of being fined and legal proceedings instituted. The municipality will not bear any cost of the renovation plan, he categorically stated.

Duaij envisaged that the first stage of the plan will be completed between four months to a year.

Price hike justified, says co-ops chairman

COMPLAINTS from a large section of the population regarding a rise in prices of consumer goods during the holy month of Ramadan was taken up in the form of an interview conducted by a local daily.

To highlight this issue, the daily interviewed Ali Salem Abu Hadidah, chairman of Kuwait's Co-operative Societies Union and Khaled Al Othman, managing director of the Kuwaiti Agricultural Products Company.

Hadidah commenting on the attitude of the suppliers trying to hike prices said that in keeping with the policy of the union, such demands for an increase in prices has been totally rejected.

Fielding a question over the increase in some prices which ranged up to 25 per cent in some cases, the chairman said that this is attributed to the fluctuations ruling in international markets, an increase in freight rates, scarcity of availability of these goods due to bad weather and an increase in demand over supply in exporting countries.

Dairy produce

On the issue of an increase in prices of dairy products, the official said that this is due to the cancellation of the subsidisation extended by European governments to this industry. This has led to an increase in prices of the imported dairy products between 15 to 20 per cent.

On the unavailability of some consumer goods during this period, Hadidah said that the union made every effort to provide alternative consumer articles at very reasonable rates. He added that the union provided all goods through the Collective Imports and Purchase Committee.

Working hours at co-operative societies will be from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm and from 7:30 to 11:30 pm daily, he said.

The Kuwaiti Agricultural Products Company will open another two branches at Al Ardhiya, bringing the total number of branches to 41 throughout the country. Khaled Al Othman, managing director of the company said.

Commenting on the price rise of fresh vegetables and fruits at the local markets, the official said the instability in prices is due to the effects of supply and demand and seasonal weather conditions directly related to the quantity of products available.

Competitor

However, he added that his company has joined the market as a competitor in enable the consumer to obtain the most competitive prices.

Iraqi water to be made potable before distribution

WATER supplies from Iraq to Kuwait would in every probability be treated with active carbon before distribution, according to an official.

Kuwait will import a total of 350 million gallons of water daily from Iraq in stage one of the project. Subsequently, this capacity could be increased to 700 million gallons. Abdullah Al Munayes, undersecretary at the Ministry of Electricity and Water said.

Processes

The chemical treatment will involve three processes prior to being filtered through sand which entails the use of active carbon as a water deodorant. The water from Iraq is to be transported through pipes to convey water to consumers from the distribution centres in Kuwait.

Farms in Wafra and Abdaly are provided with the water distributions in those areas. Work is currently in progress to further step up the productivity of existing water stations to be better able to cater to the agricultural needs, Munayes said.

Fabric buyers cautioned against fakes

CUSTOMERS intending to purchase fabrics from the local market have been advised to ensure quality and price factors.

A curtain salesman said that customers should shop around at different places to see various ranges of fabrics, determine quality and ascertain the most appropriate prices prior to finalising purchase.

He advised customers to verify the genuine article from the country of origin and name of the manufacturer printed on each metre of the fabrics. Customers who are not vigilant or experienced have ended up purchasing imitation fabrics and paying the costs of the originals, the salesman said.

A wool merchant said that there are various qualities of wool. However, he cautioned purchasers against washing woollens in hot water or

ironing them with hot irons. The use of such methods will cause woollen materials to shrink, he said.

A local daily interviewed a large number of clothing merchants who said that clothing apparel for teenagers has the largest business turnover, and consequently many merchants tamper with the trade marks to gain more profits.

Cheaper goods tend to pose unfair competitions with the real articles. However, most shops of repute prefer to deal only with genuine articles.

Amin Al Awadi, a shop owner, said that the absence of official supervision is the main cause of unfair sales practices which are showing an increase. He added that inspection officials are not well qualified or trained to ascertain and effectively put an end to various forms of cheating.

NHA grants rent allowances through KFH

ALL citizens entitled to the rent allowance can opt either to have their respective amounts credited to their accounts with the Kuwait Finance House (KFH) or to obtain these amounts directly from the National Housing Authority (NHA).

In an interview with a local daily, an official of the NHA said that KFH had been selected as the corresponding paying institution as it had favourably accepted the terms of reference as proposed by the NHA, unlike banks. Banks were not keen on acting as correspondents in this issue as they believe no monetary benefits are to be gained by handling such transactions.

The NHA has no intention either to increase or decrease the rent allowance, according to Ahmed Al Samaka, assistant director-general for application and allocation affairs at the NHA.

He went on to say that citizens who had been given a two year grace period to build their houses and were entitled to rent allowances will not be granted any allowances after the expiry of the two year period if their houses had not been built.

A total of 9,000 citizens are entitled to rent allowances, the official said.

Scholarship plan for civil servants

THE current scholarship plan stressed the importance of providing intensive training programmes to step up the performance level of civil servants.

Nominees for scholarships must qualify by the stipulated conditions related to obtaining scholarships for MA and Ph.D. degrees in certain specialisations.

Speaking to a local daily, Saud Al Talab, assistant undersecretary for scholarships and computers at the Civil Service Commission (CSC) said that the first condition is to obtain admission from an approved university. The CSC will then consider applications submitted by official government agencies, in

accordance with the provisions of decision No. 10 of 1986.

Meanwhile, Naser Al Dahi, the director of the training centre at the Education Ministry said that the centre is currently organising field visits to certain government work sites. A total of 95 headmasters and principals of the ministry schools will participate in the programme designed to enhance positive management techniques.

He said that this programme was part of the centre's contribution to the implementation of the National Five-year Development Plan, which aims, among other things, at developing the workforce operating within the

government sector.

He pointed out that a plan had been developed and endorsed for the organisation of 64 specialist training courses in various fields, with 8 more others in computers and that the implementation date is April 15.

In the meantime, the director of the Manpower Resources and Development Department at the Ministry of Communications has said that the Higher Planning Committee at the ministry has endorsed a proposal tabled by the department regarding the organisation of an intensive and advanced training course for senior ministry officials to be implemented late in the year.



Officers honoured

THE Director-General of Kuwait's Criminal Evidence Department Colonel Saud Al Berges decorated two officers and 18 warrant officers of his department who have been granted the honour of HH the Amir's medals, the Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Interior reported.

Colonel Berges made a speech at the decoration ceremony in which he praised the efforts of the officers and urged them to exert more for the sake of the country's security and stability.

The ceremony was attended by senior officials of the department.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

BIBF offers comprehensive training to Gulf nationals

A LEADING academic institution has been playing a key role in promoting and developing the banking and finance sector in the island by training Bahraini nationals in particular and Gulf nationals in general to become skilled professionals in this vital industry.

Bahrain's reputation as the banking centre in the region has prompted the government to give top priority to its nationals by providing adequate training facilities in this sector with the aim of encouraging and attracting increasing number of Bahrainis to join this lucrative profession. In keeping with the Bahrainisation policy, the Bahrain Bankers' Training Centre was established in September 1980 to offer a comprehensive and advance banking training to Bahrainis already employed in the banking sector and to those willing to join the profession.

Equipped

Last month the centre, renamed as the Bahrain Institute for Banking and Finance (BIBF), was moved to a new BD 1,630,000 million premises equipped with all the latest technology and a wide variety of courses for the students.

Albert Woodhouse, Director of BIBF, spoke to the Arab Times in an interview about the organisation's role, achievements and facilities.

According to Woodhouse the primary role of this vital institute is to provide support to the banking industry by providing higher training of staff already employed in banking and financial institutions in the island, to meet the training needs of the law paying banks and insurance companies in a responsive and cost-effective manner, and to contribute towards the consolidation of Bahrain's reputation as the financial centre in the region.

"We are not a university, but a training institute for bankers at basic, intermediate and advance levels. The majority of the participants come from financial institutions in Bahrain as well as other Gulf states. We operate on similar pattern as other well established financial centres in the region," explained Woodhouse.

Hashish is too easy ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Bilal disclosed that addiction is not a problem of hospitals, but of the society, which should tackle the problem. New concepts for treatment can be organised and utilise the facilities of the society to pave a new way of life for an addict, he said.

The official said that alcohol is also a major problem. It has been reported that five to 25 per cent of patients have alcohol in their blood.

Experts and researchers alike have called for the establishment of a special centre for addicts in addition to drawing up effective programmes to eradicate the drug menace.

Drug smuggling in Kuwait has increased in the last year, according to a senior Kuwaiti official.

Statistics indicate that drug smuggling and trafficking cases pending in the court have gone up from 30 cases in 1987 to 143 in 1988. Cases of possession and addiction also increased during the same period from five to 25.

Colonel Abdullah Al Faris the director general of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) said.

But, he added that addiction is not a major problem in Kuwait and categorically denied that there is widespread drug addiction among students. The

majority of drug users are labourers ranging between the 22 to 35 age group.

In 1988, Kuwaiti customs personnel prevented the smuggling of 4.5 kilos of heroin, 1.8 million pills and 64.5 kilos of hashish. A total of 330 smugglers were arrested.

Faris said that narcotics agents work in close co-operation with Kuwait's customs officials and though drug smugglers use ingenious methods about 80 per cent of smuggling attempts are thwarted by officials. Sniffer dogs have recently been introduced in the search operations.

He went on to state that smugglers apprehended by Kuwaiti authorities are not linked to organised crime, though they have middlemen in Kuwait who act as traffickers.

He stressed that the possibility for smuggling drugs from where, to 15 years. Stricter penalties including life imprisonment have been recently introduced to eradicate the menace.

Addicts below the age of 18 will not be prosecuted, provided their parents inform authorities. Faris said. On such notification, the addict is transferred to the Psychiatric hospital.

If the offence is repeated the juvenile will not be given a certificate of good conduct.

Charity activities stepped up by Awqaf Ministry during Ramadan

MINISTER of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Khalid Al Jasser has said that the administrative development process at the ministry is progressing smoothly and that the ministry is currently sponsoring banquets hosted by mosques during the holy month of Ramadan, through the Zakat House.

Jasser told a local newspaper that the total number of Islamic scholars distributed by the ministry throughout the Islamic world and among Muslim minorities in other parts of the world was well over 180.

Funds

He pointed out that the ministry had stepped up its charity activities on the occasion of Ramadan and that contributions had been collected to fund the construction of mosques, orphanages or clinics in poverty-stricken areas.

He stressed the important role played by the ministry in the revival of the Islamic heritage through the publication of Islamic books and the extension of financial support to Islamic societies and centres abroad.

Bangladesh envoy

The Ambassador of Bangladesh, K.M. Shelaubuddin, yesterday met Kuwait's Defence Ministry Undersecretary Faisal Al Daud and discussed matters related to bilateral co-operation.

MIDEAST

ARAB TIMES, TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1989

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Largest producer
RIYADH, April 10: Saudi Arabia is the world's largest producer of desalinated water for drinking purposes. The total capacity of the kingdom's desalination plants has reached 503 million gallons of water daily and 3400 megawatt of electricity. This enabled the kingdom to provide fresh potable water to big cities and various villages. Thus underground water is being spared and supplied for agricultural purposes.

The average cost of production of desalinated water reached SR1.5 (40 C) per cubic metre in (1989). It is worth noting that this is equal to or less than the cost of producing the same quantity of underground water.

US economic aid
CAIRO, April 10, (KUNA): The US administration has agreed to release economic aid to Egypt to finance purchase of American wheat, according to Egyptian State Minister for Administrative Development, Aatef Obaid.

Egypt will next week be allowed to use previously negotiated loans which were frozen because Cairo had failed to meet the conditions set by the International Monetary Fund, Obaid said on returning here from Washington last night.

Obaid and State Minister for International Co-operation, Maurice Makra Mallah, three days ago ended talks in Washington with the American government and the World Bank on economic aid and loans to Egypt.

Rains lash S. Yemen
MANAMA, April 10, (AP): Fresh rainstorms lashed South Yemen for the third straight day but no up-to-date casualty figures were released, according to Aden residents reached by telephone from Bahrain.

On Tuesday, South Yemeni Minister of Interior, Saleh Al Seyali, said 40 people had died and dozens were injured in flash floods since March 19.

But he said the casualty toll was based on second-hand reports as communications had been cut with flooded villages and towns.

Hussein to visit US
CAIRO, April 10, (UPI): King Hussein of Jordan will travel to the United States Monday for talks with President Bush on measures to promote peace in the region, the Middle East News Agency reported.

The news agency quoted "well informed sources" in the Jordanian capital of Amman as saying that Hussein would leave Jordan on April 17 on his way to the US for his talks with Bush scheduled for April 19.

The news agency said Hussein's talks with Bush were expected to focus on means of pushing ahead the peace-making process in the area "through convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East."

Law opposed
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 10, (AP): Israel's justice minister yesterday submitted a proposal for a civil rights law that is expected to face stiff opposition from religious parties who say the proposal does not recognise the special nature of Judaism in the state.

The proposed "basic law on human rights" has been shelved since 1963 due to the objections of religious parties. The bill, which calls for equality "between men and women, and between all people regardless of religion, nationality, race, or ethnicity" would not apply in the occupied West Bank or Gaza Strip, which are ruled through military and not civil law.

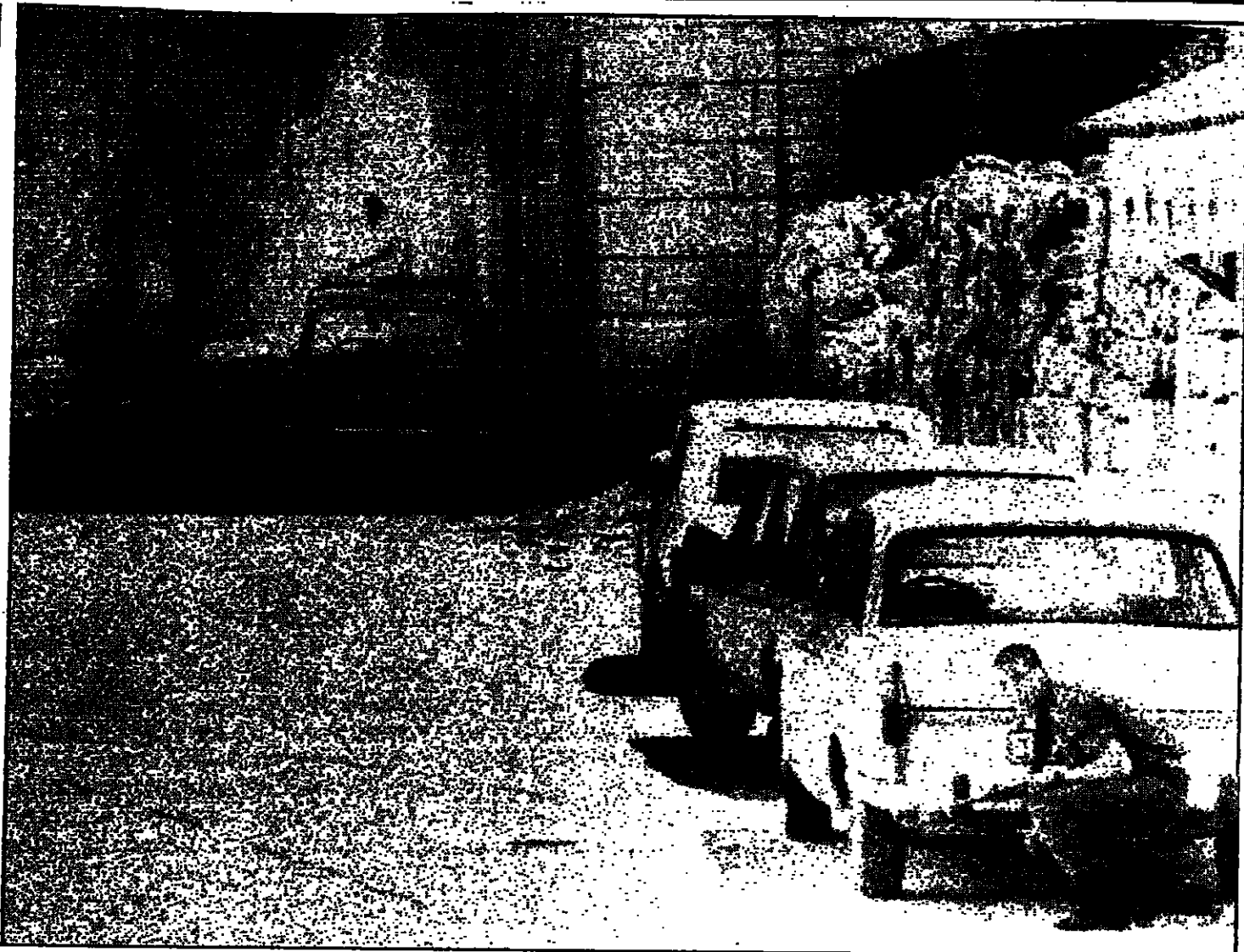
Ship raised
BAGHDAD, April 10, (KUNA): An Iraqi ship laden with 2,300 tons of Iraqi dates set sail yesterday from Khor Al Zubair port in Basra, in its first trip abroad, after being docked for the past eight years.

The Iraqi News Agency said that the Zanoobis has left Al Ma'qal port to Khor Al Zubair port yesterday.

Iraqi ports authorities raised the Iraqi ship Ibn Batoutah from the Shatt Al Arab waterway. Ibn Batoutah is the 10th sunk object removed since a cleaning campaign of Shatt Al Arab began.

Court to decide
ATHENS, April 10, (Reuters): The Greek Supreme Court will decide this week whether to recommend that a Palestinian be extradited to the United States where he faces charges over the 1982 bombing of a Pan Am airliner, court sources said.

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear Washington's request for 34-year-old Mohammed Rashid's extradition tomorrow. Rashid is wanted in the United States in connection with the explosion aboard a Pan Am plane over Hawaii in 1982, which killed a Japanese teenager and injured 15 other passengers.



West Bank clash

An Israeli soldier armed with a rifle crouches behind a car as a masked Palestinian in West Bank throws rocks beside a burning tyre. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bonn urged to probe 'missile sale'

Raid on German company reported

LONDON, April 10, (AP): The United States has twice asked the Bonn government to investigate the alleged involvement of West Germany's largest aerospace group in the sale to Argentina and Iraq of missile technology with chemical warhead capability, a TV report says.

"West German weapons technology has been sold to Argentina and Iraq for the development of a new missile which can be equipped with a chemical weapon," said a statement advertising the programme, to be aired tonight on "Programme."

The British Broadcasting Corp.'s most respected current affairs show.

"The British and American governments fear that the missile is a major threat to the stability of the Middle East," it said, adding that it will have a 600-mile (1,000-km).

The BBC film says the missile, the Condor II, is a joint project by Argentina, Egypt and Iraq, and claims the technology involved may violate a treaty signed two years ago by seven governments, including the United States and West Germany.

The Hamburg-based Stern magazine also reported the raid and said documents were seized. It said Gildemeister's offices were searched three weeks ago.

Stern said the company was the general contractor for development of what it claimed is a "secret rocket development laboratory in Iraq disguised as a civilian university institute."

The BBC film includes an interview with Klaus Mehrens, who represents the Metalworkers' Union on MMB's supervisory board, the press release said.

Israeli Navy destroys boat, kills two
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 10, (AP): Israeli Navy seamen opened fire on a rubber dinghy off the south Lebanese coast yesterday, killing two guerrillas on board and destroying the small boat, the commander of the Navy said.

Also yesterday, an Israeli soldier suffered light wounds when an armoured personnel carrier hit a land mine in southern Lebanon, the military said.

The early-morning sea clash involved a routine naval patrol that spotted the dinghy just north of the Israeli border town of Rosh Haniqra, said Navy commander Maj. Gen. Micha Ram.

The commander of the Israeli Dvora patrol boat, who was not identified, told Israel Television that the shoot-out lasted seconds.

Ijaz vows support for mujahedeen
Death threat against Zia's son

MANAMA, April 10, (AP): The son of the late Pakistan President Gen. Zia Ul-Haq claimed in an interview published yesterday that an aide to Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has threatened to kill him after he decided to enter politics.

Ijaz Ul-Haq, a banker in Bahrain, told the English-language newspaper Gulf Daily News that the threat was made by N.D. Khan, a senior political advisor to the prime minister who won the elections after Zia was killed Aug 17 in a plane crash.

He said: "N.D. Khan made his threat in a statement published in 'Jang', the largest circulated Urdu newspaper in Pakistan, two days after I announced my decision in Karachi to join the opposition Muslim League."

Ijaz, regional manager for Bank of America, has been in Bahrain since 1981. He is married and has two children.

Earlier this month, Ijaz, 37, told a rally in Karachi that he was joining the conservative Muslim League. He vowed to continue his father's support for Afghan mujahedeen fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul and to press for enforcement of the sharia, or Islamic law, in Pakistan.

Zia hanged Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the present prime minister's father, for "conspiracy to murder" 10 years ago. Ijaz said Khan told Jang: "Ijaz's public appearance added sore to our wounds created by the execution of Bhutto, and we won't let the heirs of General Zia live."

Khan, Ijaz added, said: "Ijaz should remember that he has stepped into barbed wire and put his foot into the mouth of a python, and his public appearance is at a time when we were worried that we had missed the prey."

Khan had also threatened that anyone carrying the picture of the late President would "disappear from the earth," Ijaz said.

He said that he was writing to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan saying that if any harm was done to him or to his family, the People's Party will be held "directly responsible."

"I have decided to join the Muslim League because it is the party which gave birth to Pakistan and was revived by my late father in 1985," he told the newspaper.

He said a standing ovation for 15 minutes he received at the rally reflected the people's love and affection for his late father.

He also claimed the opposition fired 177 shells, rockets and mortars at Ghazni, 130 kilometres (80 miles) from the Pakistani border, in the past 24 hours. That attack killed nine civilians and two government soldiers, he said.

He said the government returned fire, killing nine rebels. The government reports, if true, would indicate the Muslim guerrillas are stepping up pressure on Najib's troops in other parts of the country as they continue their attack on Jalalabad.

Amani claimed government troops had killed 195 rebel fighters and wounded 142 in the Jalalabad region in the last 24 hours. He did not give government casualty figures.

He also said 54 more rebels were killed by government fire in fighting near Sarobi, located midway between Jalalabad and Kabul on the only paved road linking the two cities.

Amani reiterated past Afghan government accusations that Pakistan is co-ordinating the escalating rebel attacks in areas of the border between the two south Asian countries.

Upgraded Phantom jet fighter
The Israeli Air Force received its first upgraded Phantom jet fighter and officials said Israeli-engineered improvements will keep the almost 35-year-old jets flying into the next century.

Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Avihu Bin-Nun said the revamped jet, called the Phantom 2000, will be used as a bomber and will be able to compete with Soviet-made fighters used by many Arab Air Forces. "The main mission of the plane will be air-to-ground capabilities," Nun said on Israel Radio. "But it will be able to deal with threats of the modern battlefield." (Reuters wirephoto)

41 including mentor of radicals detained in Egypt
FAYOUM, Egypt, April 10, (Reuters): A top Muslim theologian and mentor of Egypt's Islamic radicals was arrested after clashes between fundamentalists and police in the oasis town of Fayoum, a senior police officer said yesterday.

He told Reuters eight people were injured when riot police and Muslim militants demonstrating against the government exchanged shots in the town, 100 km (60 miles) southwest of Cairo, on Friday.

The 41 people detained included Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, a blind theologian and fiery preacher regarded by many members of the underground Islamic Jihad group as their mufti (guide).

Abdel-Rahman, 52, was once charged with inciting the killing of President Anwar Sadat, shot by Islamic Jihad members at a Cairo military parade on Oct 6, 1981, but was acquitted for lack of evidence.

Fayoum appeared tranquil yesterday but armed police were on alert near the mosque where the violence erupted. Fayoum police chief Mohammed Saif Al Islam, who was wounded in the clash, said Abdel-Rahman invited 1,500 supporters from Assiut, Minya and other Upper Egypt towns to the mosque to prepare for a protest March on the first day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

"I warned them to disperse peacefully," he told Reuters from his hospital bed. "I heard gunfire and was hit by a bullet in the leg. I ordered my men to return fire."

A witness, shopowner Mohammed Fouad Ibrahim, 30, said: "There was shooting on both sides and it looked like another Lebanon."

A Fayoum official said Abdel-Rahman and nine other people had been detained for 15 days pending further investigations.

Interior Ministry sources in Cairo said the remaining 31 were detained under emergency laws, which were introduced after Sadat's murder and allow a suspect to be held indefinitely.

Saad Eddin Ibrahim, a specialist on Egypt's fundamentalist movement, told Reuters last month there were signs of mounting unrest over unemployment, low wages and rising prices.

Major assault on Jalalabad
Kabul retaliates

ISLAMABAD, April 10, (Agencies): Afghan guerrillas launched a second major attack on the eastern town of Jalalabad yesterday but the Kabul government said its forces retaliated, inflicting heavy casualties on the attackers.

The official Kabul Radio, monitored in Islamabad, said government forces killed about 250 Western-backed mujahedeen guerrillas after they launched a three-sided attack on Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar province bordering Pakistan.

"The brave military forces took a counter-action ... and the air force and artillery severely punished the enemy," the radio said.

Earlier the Pakistan-based guerrillas said they had launched a second major attack on Jalalabad yesterday morning and had come under heavy bombing from government planes.

But a spokesman for the mujahedeen in Pakistan, who have earmarked Jalalabad as a seat for their rival government, said they had no reports of any casualties or of how the assault was progressing.

An Afghan rebel news service said the attack was aimed at capturing the airport and three government bases.

A rebel offensive against Jalalabad launched last month has been bogged down by government bombing and minefields around the provincial capital near the Pakistan border.

A spokesman for the Hezb-i-Islami (Khalis) guerrilla party said the latest attack was launched "from all sides using rockets and various other weapons they have."

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A spokesman for the Hezb-i-Islami (Khalis) guerrilla party said the latest attack was launched "from all sides using rockets and various other weapons they have."

He said government jets were bombing suspected guerrilla positions heavily and the fighting was continuing some seven hours after the attack started.

The guerrillas were using 15 tanks captured from government troops, another guerrilla spokesman said.

More than 20,000 new Afghan refugees have poured into Pakistan following last month's assault on Jalalabad, which the mujahedeen want to establish as the capital of their government-in-exile.

Pakistan, which hosts more than three million Afghan refugees and the main guerrilla groups, has denied Afghan charges that its troops are fighting alongside the rebels in the battle for Jalalabad.

The Afghan News Agency (ANA), sponsored by the main seven-party guerrilla alliance, said the rebels also attacked the border garrison town of Khost in nearby Pakia province on Saturday and captured three posts.

No independent confirmation of the report was available. But a Kabul government official said that rebels launched new rocket and artillery attacks on the towns of Khost and Ghazni.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said an estimated 265 people were killed in fighting around four urban areas over the past 24 hours, but his information could not be independently verified.

"Pakistani forces, Arab advisers and the (rebels) launched an extended attack" on Saturday on Khost and the fighting continued yesterday, he said.

Amani said the rebels fired long-range rockets and heavy artillery at the town, 30 kilometres (18 miles) from the Pakistani border. While he had no casualty reports, he claimed the attack was led by two Pakistani military officers disguised as Afghans.

He also claimed the opposition fired 177 shells, rockets and mortars at Ghazni, 130 kilometres (80 miles) from the Pakistani border, in the past 24 hours. That attack killed nine civilians and two government soldiers, he said.

He said the government returned fire, killing nine rebels. The government reports, if true, would indicate the Muslim guerrillas are stepping up pressure on Najib's troops in other parts of the country as they continue their attack on Jalalabad.



Afghan mujahedeen guerrillas pose with an unexploded bomb dropped by government aircraft near the besieged city of Jalalabad last week. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hekmatyar leaves for Malaysia

US naming of envoy signals recognition

DHAKA, April 10, (Reuters): The US appointment of a special envoy to the Afghan resistance is the first step to Washington's recognition of the rebel government-in-exile, a rebel leader said today.

"We believe that this (appointment) is the first step to US recognition," Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said.

President Bush on Thursday appointed Peter Tomsen, former US Charges d'Affaires in Beijing, to the newly-created post, which carries the rank of ambassador.

Washington said however the appointment did not amount to US recognition of the rebel government-in-exile.

The Soviet Union denounced the appointment as an unfriendly act and warned it would intensify the war in Afghanistan.

Hekmatyar, foreign minister of the rebel government, said he did not understand what was delaying US recognition but said he hoped it would come soon.

"I think we have fulfilled all the requirements for being recognised. We are in effective control of 95 per cent of Afghan territory and we are running local administrations in at least four provinces," he said.

"There are countries which have already recognised us, much the same way as they have recognised the PLO. But some are still hesitating," he said.

He said he believed most countries were waiting to see the fall of Jalalabad — the strategic city the rebels hope to capture and make their capital — before extending recognition.

But Hekmatyar said he thought the mujahedeen would capture Kabul before Jalalabad. "We are on a victory run now and it seems Kabul will fall well ahead of Jalalabad," he said.

Hekmatyar arrived in Dhaka on Saturday to lobby for recognition by Bangladesh, which supports the rebels in their fight against the Afghan government of President Najibullah.

He left for Malaysia today on the next leg of his eight-nation tour of Asia and Australia.

During his Bangladesh visit, Hekmatyar met President Hussein Mohammad Ershad and Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud. He gave Ershad a pistol which he said the guerrillas use in their battles in Afghanistan.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

MARRIAGE always demands the greatest understanding of the art of inalterability possible between two human beings — Vicki Baum, Austrian-American writer-playwright (1888-1960).

OPINION

Debtors' crisis

THE Kuwaiti government through the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank keeps an amount of KD2 billion in reserve to support the local banks in case of catastrophe.

This course of action is applied in all countries including Egypt which is considered a poor country and has huge amounts to rescue its national banks in cases of emergency.

The question that arises here is: what is the catastrophe and where does it emanate from? If a catastrophe is on the horizon, it will be the direct result of the problems faced by individuals who have been subjected to the loans settlement scheme.

These debtors are in real trouble, but we still keep our eyes closed as to their dilemma. Moreover, we still go on recording interest charges on their outstandings — as if these interest amounts are only nominal.

Prior to beginning any economic relaxation, there must be a psychological strengthening of the individuals involved. We must admit that the persons who now find themselves in trouble have been afflicted as a direct result of the government scheme based on the hope that payments will be made within 15 years, failing which the government would pay their debts.

In all candour, we must state that these persons who did not pay, acted in this manner because they are victims of the government's wrong evaluatory policy in dealing with the Manakh crisis.

The government wants to pay for its mistake in dealing with the Manakh crisis after 15 years — but still keeps the reserves in case banks are affected.

A wiser course of action will be for the government to help these individuals who are in trouble — else their troubles may put the local banks into trouble.

Why can the government not help these people and "kill two birds with one stone." Save the investors from bankruptcy and save the banks from the ensuing problems. This is because the unpaid amounts of investors are debts of the national banks.

Solving the crisis in the manner suggested will speed up returning the situation to normalcy and bringing back investors to actively begin trading as demanded by the Chamber of Commerce in its report.

This applies particularly to those investors who only lack funds to move or at least if the debts of the government and banks on them are dropped. It has now become obvious that they are unable to pay — even after 20 years.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Burying the hatchet

Indonesia, China warm up

By Clayton Jones

JAKARTA: When the two most peopled nations in the Far East pledge to reopen diplomatic ties, it should be cause for celebration.

That's not quite the case for Indonesia, however, which recently related to China's call to normalise relations after 22 years. A wary uncertainty pervades Jakarta, long accustomed to calls for vigilance against China.

While rapprochement makes sense under Indonesia's newly assertive foreign policy, the internal implications of Chinese diplomats operating in Jakarta have not gone down easily. Armed forces commander Gen. Try Sutrisno says the new ties will mean "extra work" for the military.

For two decades, the Suharto government has rallied the country against potential "subversion from the north," meaning China might incite Indonesia's 3 million to 5 million ethnic Chinese. Such fears are long-standing among many Southeast Asian countries with Chinese minorities, most especially Indonesia.

Indeed, President Suharto blames China for supporting a 1965 coup attempt in Indonesia. Suharto, as a military general, assumed power in 1966, froze ties with Beijing, and has since tried to wipe out the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI). The traumatic events are well remembered in Jakarta. Now, with China moving fast from its Maoist past, Suharto decided to end the hostility and seek a no-meddling guarantee from Beijing in exchange for recognition.

His opportunity came last month during the burial ceremonies for Japan's late emperor. Suharto met with Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister Qian Qichen in Tokyo on Feb. 23, and the two agreed to start talks on establishing relations. Suharto dropped a condition that China publicly apologise for its alleged coup role. Qian repeated assurances of no Chinese interference in Indonesian affairs.

The depth of the estrangement between the two countries could delay an opening of embassies for a year or more, say Jakarta officials and Western diplomats. Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Alatas claims he has "no time frame" for completing talks, which will be conducted by their missions at the United Nations.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1564 — Peace of Troyes ends war between England and France.
- 1677 — William of Orange is defeated at Cassel, Germany, by Duke of Orleans.
- 1689 — William and Mary are crowned king and queen of England.
- 1713 — Peace of Utrecht between France, Britain, Holland, Savoy, Portugal and Prussia; Spain cedes Gibraltar to England.
- 1805 — Britain and Russia, by treaty of St Petersburg, agree to form a European League for liberation of German states, the third coalition against France.
- 1814 — Napoleon Bonaparte abdicates unconditionally as emperor of France and is banished to Elba by Treaty of Fontainebleau.
- 1843 — Britain separates Gambia from Sierra Leone as crown colony.
- 1894 — Uganda is declared a British protectorate.
- 1899 — Philippine islands are transferred from Spain to United States.
- 1919 — Referendum in New Zealand declares against prohibition.
- 1951 — US President Harry S. Truman relieves General Douglas MacArthur of his command in Far East.
- 1953 — United Nations force and communists arrange for exchange of prisoners in Korea; Vietnamese insurgents renew offensive in Laos.
- 1961 — Nigeria imposes total boycott on South African trade.
- 1973 — Martin Bormann, Nazi official pursued throughout world, is officially declared dead and taken off West Germany's "most wanted" list.
- 1987 — China's National People's Congress ends annual session after endorsing Premier Zhao Ziyang's centrist policies and removing nation's top security official.
- 1988 — Israel expels to Lebanon eight Palestinians as the Palestine Liberation Organisation goes to court to seek dismissal of US lawsuit to close PLO's observer mission.

'Where was George?' Still a valid question

Try as he might, 'Irangate' just won't go away

By Donald M. Rothberg

WASHINGTON, (AP): Those questions about George Bush's role in the Iran-Contra affair just won't go away. They dogged him during the presidential campaign and they hit him again last week. But Bush is standing fast, refusing to offer any new details.

"Please, accept it when I said I don't want to talk about it any more," said the President when reporters raised the issue anew during a briefing on the Alaska oil spill.

"Look, we're having a briefing on Alaska," he said, sounding a bit testy over the attempt to get him to talk about an extraordinary document entered into evidence at the trial of Oliver North.

The document outlined the workings of the secret effort to keep supplies flowing to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels despite a congressional ban on aid. It began with the statement that "the United States has admitted for purposes of this trial the following facts to be true."

The account suggested that Bush, then vice-president, had a more active role in that supply effort than has been publicly disclosed.

It said Bush met with the President of Honduras in May 1985 to inform him of President Ronald Reagan's decision to speed up delivery of US military aid to that country. Former National Security adviser Robert McFarlane has testified that Reagan personally approved the secret deal to ship extra aid to Honduras as one of several "quid pro quo" arrangements with other countries in exchange



Oliver North

for support for the Contras.

The document linked the US aid to Honduran co-operation in assisting the Contras, but it did not say whether Bush was aware of that condition.

Exactly what Bush was aware of in those conspiratorial days in the White House basement has never been clear.

Bush has denied having any knowledge of a diversion of Iran arms-sales proceeds to the Contras. Although he admitted knowing about the clandestine arms sales to Iran and said he supported the initiative with certain reservations. Donald Gregg, his national security adviser during the period in question, said he did not tell Bush about the Contra resupply effort that Gregg had learned about from a one-time CIA associate.

Former Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. pressed Bush repeatedly during the campaign for the 1988 GOP presidential nomination to say more about his role in the effort to help the Contras.

"If you can't answer your friends," said Haig, during a Republican candidate debate "what in heaven's name is going to happen next November if you are our standard-bearer and these Democrats get after you on this subject?"

Candidate Bush liked to cite his experience as Reagan's No. 2.

"I've been co-pilot for seven years," he said.

"Were you in the cockpit or were you on an economy ride in the back of the plane?" retorted Haig. Republican rival Bob Dole was equally determined but no more successful.

Would he release some of the documents pertaining to his role, Bush was asked by his Republican rivals.

"I think some of those are classified," he said.

Asked whether he would allow them to



George Bush

be reclassified, the vice-president replied, "I'm perfectly willing."

On one point Bush was absolutely correct: He said no Republican would beat him by making an issue of Iran-Contra.

No Democrat would either, hard as they would try.

"Where was George?" Democrats chanted at their convention when Sen. Edward M. Kennedy used that refrain to question what role Bush had in Iran-Contra as well as others policy issues during his term as vice-president.

Safely elected and inaugurated and now happily in residence at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Bush still can't seem to kick those Iran-Contra questions.

No longer No. 2, he appeared in the White House briefing room to talk about the Alaskan oil spill.

He outlined steps he was taking to assist the cleanup and then invited questions.

"Fire away," he said.

"How do you reconcile your efforts to arrange third-country military aid for the Contras with the spirit of the ban by Congress on aid to the rebels?" was the first question.

"I'm not going to comment on any aspect of the North trial," responded the President in measured tones.

He expressed concern about prejudicing the trial of the former White House aide and said the information had already been examined by the special prosecutor and congressional committees that investigated the case.

"All the material that you seem to be referring to... has been available to the independent counsel and the Iran-Contra committee and has been reviewed by them for any special significance."

But it remains largely unavailable to the public and was never available either to Bush's campaign rivals or to the voters in 1988.

Gerasimov said. "With other politicians, you don't expect so much, but when Gorbachev speaks, you expect him to pull a rabbit out every time."

But after leaving the island, a Gorbachev aide dropped a tantalizing hint that the Soviet Communist Party chief is prepared to try to mediate the long-running feud between Cuba and the United States.

Although Castro's public remarks were peppered with anti-American slogans, Georgi Shakhnazarov, a foreign policy adviser to Gorbachev, said the Cuban leader told the Soviets privately he would still like to normalize relations with the United States, noting that the US economic blockade and political estrangement have cost the island dearly for three decades.

In London, the Soviet leader was said to have argued passionately with his hosts, the staunchly anti-communist prime minister Margaret Thatcher, but after his address to a magnificently robed British luminaries in Guildhall, she gave him the kind of endorsement he has sought from the West since launching his modernization campaign four years ago.

Gorbachev, summarizing his goals for an international television audience, said: "We are building an open, democratic and free society which has learned the lessons of its past, a society based on law and responsibility, a society that keeps its citizens well informed, that rests on its citizens' initiative and enterprise, on Soviet socialist patriotism and dedication to human socialism aimed at elevating the human being."

Mrs Thatcher, in response, called him "one of those rare people who has the vision, the boldness and the sheer power of personality to change the whole future of his country and to have a profound effect on the wider world as well."

"We want you to succeed in your task," she told Gorbachev, "first because we believe that in your vision lies a better life for the Soviet people, but also because every step towards greater democracy, human rights and freedom of choice in your country brings us closer together."

And she pledged, "we're ready to help in practical ways, too, where our help is sought and desired."

Ringing endorsement from Thatcher

Gorbachev's UK boost



Hand of friendship: Thatcher greets Mikhail Gorbachev at No. 10 Downing Street

Congress to stop seeking military support for the Contra rebels in Soviet-backed Nicaragua, had been hoping for some clearer signal that the Soviets would reduce arms shipments to the Sandinistas.

Seasoned observers in Havana, however, said even if Gorbachev intended to do that he would not have said so in Cuba, Nicaragua's strongest backer.

Asked why Gorbachev had not given some clearer indication one way or another of his intentions toward Cuba and Latin America, Soviet foreign ministry spokesman Gennady I. Gerasimov complained that people have come to expect too much from the Soviet leader every time he makes a speech. "It's the rabbit-from-the-hat approach,"

Discord among Tibet communists

By James L. Tyson

BEIJING: The Tibetan independence movement has won the support of some Communist Party members in Tibet, sparking intense strife within the region's ruling body.

In an extraordinary revelation of party infighting, official newspaper commentaries in Tibet have called for a purge of party members who back efforts to end China's rule of the region.

The commentary is the first public disclosure that some party members condone Tibetan independence. It shows that recent clashes — the worst in 30 years — between police and independence advocates have polarized the region's party, according to Western diplomats.

The unrest pits members who support a draconian crackdown in Tibet against those who condone autonomy for the region, the diplomats say.

The disclosures of inner-party strife come as Beijing enforces martial law in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa after fighting in which at least 16 people were killed. With some Tibetan communists faithful to Marxism and Tibet, but not necessarily to China, Beijing's struggle to maintain its control over Tibet extends into its most powerful organization in the region.

In a strongly worded commentary, the official newspaper, Tibet Daily said, "As for certain party members who, unable to withstand the test, have fallen into the separatist mire and cling to their ways despite education, we must strictly enforce party discipline and purge them from the party."

Suggesting some party members have supported Tibetan independence with more than just words, it continues, "Those who have contravened the criminal law must be severely punished," according to a trans-

cript of a radio report from Tibet.

Tibet's leadership had already acknowledged that some cadres advocate a return to strict centralized control over Tibet. Such officials have opposed a moderate policy launched by Beijing in 1980 which eased 30 years of brutal oppression and has shown comparatively greater respect for Tibetan religion and culture.

The recent death of the Panchen Lama, the highest figure in Tibetan Buddhism after the exiled Dalai Lama, has also probably sharpened this discord within the party, the diplomats say.

Wielding significant symbolic clout in Tibet, the Panchen Lama had called for greater social-welfare funding and relaxed state controls of religion, moderating the aims of hardliners and reconciling party members with opposing views. And, Beijing's reluctance also has probably incited party members to oppose China's reprisals against independence activists.

The Dalai Lama, Tibet's theocratic ruler before China annexed the region in 1950, has urged Beijing to grant Tibet full control over domestic matters, while retaining power over the region's foreign policy and defence. He has also called on Beijing to negotiate with Tibet's government-in-exile.

China's outright rejection of the proposal for Tibetan autonomy and its refusal to negotiate with the exiled government has probably disillusioned some Tibetan communists. They may believe Beijing's unyielding stand indicates it will continue to violently suppress the independence movement rather than compromise with the Dalai Lama, the diplomats add.

1989, The Christian Science Monitor

'Coalition of the middle' is melting

By Mark Heinrich

BONN, (Reuters): For years Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his loose "coalition of the middle" rode West Germany's wave of prosperity, but political analysts say that neglected tensions below the surface now jeopardize his government.

Chronic infighting within the coalition, they say, distracted serious attention from festering grievances of voters until they drove their point home in two regional elections this year.

Many traditional backers of Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) are defecting to rightist parties in anger over Bonn's inability to stop a flood of foreign refugees coming to West Germany.

Meanwhile, the opposition left — Social Democrats (SPD) and Greens — is gaining strength from a Soviet arms control campaign that challenges the conventional CDU view of the East bloc as a security threat.

"The economy has never been better, but the opinion of the people has changed since Kohl took office (in 1982). They are showing greater individualism in political taste," said Walter Tacke, director of the Emnid polling institute.

"In this climate it has become very difficult for a coalition of the middle like Kohl's to profile itself," Tacke said. "His cautious, step-by-step approach no longer does the job."

The CDU was voted out of office in state elections in West Berlin in January, then was hammered in communal voting in Hesse state a month ago, losing control of city in the country's financial capital, Frankfurt.

The SPD and Greens were able to form a governing coalition in West Berlin and were expected to do so in Frankfurt too.

In both elections, the far right Republicans and the neo-Nazi National Democrats (NPD) catapulted to parliamentary representation with 7.5 and 6.6 per cent of the vote, respectively. The two outpolled Kohl's ruling partner in Bonn, the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP).

Opinion surveys suggest the Republicans and NPD will score as well or better in elections in June for the European Parliament and local councils in two West German states.

An INFAS institute poll released on April 4 gave the CDU only 34 per cent nationally, a loss of two per cent within one week that underscored the party's long fall from the 44.3 per cent taken in its 1987 re-election.

The FDP had five per cent in the INFAS poll, while the greens and SPD surged to 52 per cent together — enough for a majority — and the Republicans seven per cent.

Kohl insisted before going on his Easter holidays that he was confident of re-election in 1990 and would reassess policy and personnel during his break to help him reach that goal.

Since his return on April 3, he has been reported to be preparing a cabinet shuffle, an idea pushed by the FDP to convey a fresh sense of unity and purpose to voters.

But many analysts suspect it may be too late to save the coalition, given the polarisation of the electorate.

"A 'Coalition of the middle' as Kohl has labelled his government, doesn't hold up any more if the middle is itself melting," The Munich newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung remarked.

Western diplomats say that if the CDU decline continues in the June elections, Kohl could face an internal revolt and lose his party chair-



Helmut Kohl

manship before the 1990 elections.

"But he got to the top by being a skilled and astute party man. His dull exterior should not obscure the fact that his enemies usually underestimate him. He's come out of bad patches before," one diplomat said.

Kohl has been criticised throughout his tenure for his lack of charisma, his meandering speaking style and his habit of giving cabinet posts to untried outsiders who pose no political threat to him.

An INFAS survey released last week said 65 per cent of people in a representative poll answered "no" when asked whether Kohl was a good chancellor. 23 said "yes" and remainder gave no opinion. INFAS said Kohl's personal standing was at its worst since he took office six-and-a-half years ago.

The chancellor has never been able to quiet public wrangling between FDP and CDU party officials over important policy matters ranging from asylum-seeking refugees to NATO missile modernisation, relations with the Soviet bloc, and tax reform.

Public anger over the pressure of hundreds of thousands of East bloc and Third World immigrants on the tight housing and job market has been brewing for several years.

But the FDP has blocked CDU attempts to toughen the largely open-door political asylum law, leaving Kohl with little alternative but piecemeal measures such as visa rules.

In security affairs, Kohl has backed a continued heavy NATO presence in West Germany but the public wonders why unilateral Soviet disarmament is not being reciprocated in the West.

Most West Germans oppose the proposed modernisation of NATO's nuclear missiles, but Kohl's coalition is divided.

"The government's inability to market its policies to the public is the major problem," said pollster Tacke in a comment echoed by many experts. "The policy profile just isn't there."

هكذا امن الاصل

BUSINESS & FINANCE

It's a healthy sign: NYMEX chief

Singapore poised to become major oil futures player

SINGAPORE, April 10, (UPI): The spectacular takeoff of Asia's first oil futures market has focused global interest in the birth of round-the-clock energy trading as the newest hedge against volatile prices.

With the giant New York Mercantile Exchange and the London-based International Petroleum Exchange closely eyeing the growth, experts see Singapore as the next international trading centre for the precious commodity.

Hailing the launch of the new contract "as a boon to the oil industry," Finance Minister Richard Hu noted traders no longer have to wait for markets in other time zones to open to take advantage of developments in the dynamic Asia region.

Coming amid widespread deregulation in the energy markets, Hu said, the premier heavy sulphur fuel oil contract "marks the dawn of round-the-clock trading in energy futures."

"Traders are now able to hedge particularly the whole oil barrel in the futures markets around the world," Hu said.

The hectic activity since the Feb 22 debut of the contract on the Singapore International Monetary Exchange has

encouraged a stampede of membership applications from major oil companies and individuals.

SIMEX head Elizabeth Sam said the launch of additional contracts, possibly Dubai crude, gas oil or naphtha, may come next to build on the momentum and liquidity already generated.

As the largest bunker port and the third-largest refining centre after Houston and Rotterdam, Singapore, Sam said, is in an ideal position to enter the major leagues of oil trading.

Unfazed by competition from Japan where an oil futures contract is a possibility, Sam said another market in the region would provide arbitrage opportunities.

Plans

She is also not fretting over plans by NYMEX, the world's largest oil futures trading exchange, to introduce a low-sulphur fuel oil contract, contending it would complement the Simex contract because of the different time zones.

Globe-trotting SIMEX emissaries have been garnering support, with a joint mark-

eting plan already clinched with the London-based IPE, which trades the Brent crude, gas oil and gasoline futures contracts.

"The scheme will allow us to promote the fuel oil contract internationally, especially in London and Tokyo," said SIMEX general manager Ang Swee Tian, and allow the two exchanges to pool their resources in promoting energy futures.

Top level delegations from SIMEX and Singapore's Trade Development Board are visiting oil companies, trading subsidiaries and banks in Los Angeles, Dallas, Houston and New York.

Impressed with the newcomer's vigorous start averaging 21,000 lots a day, NYMEX president Rosemary McFadden, said "it's a healthy sign. It takes time to get a contract established and the market has to mature, but I think it's going to be successful."

Even before the opening, McFadden was here to discuss a link between the two exchanges. Sam said that would happen only if they trade identical products.

So far 11 companies from Japan, Europe and the United States have

qualified for a preferential membership plan while others await approval. In return for a lower tax on income earned from the trading, the firms have committed themselves to a total turnover of \$10.5 billion over the next five years.

"We are pleased that such a hedging instrument is now available," said Jimmy Ang, trading manager of British Petroleum. "We have started to use it to hedge against our physical cargo and expect to increase our usage as the market matures."

Interest

SIMEX also deals in futures contracts in West German, British and Japanese currency, Eurodollars, gold and Tokyo's Nikkei Stock Average. Options on Eurodollars, Japanese yen and West German marks are available, too.

The heightened interest has prompted Wall Street investment giants Goldman Sachs Co. and Salomon Brothers Inc. to upgrade their Singapore offices. Goldman Sachs partner Eric Sheinberg said the office would start trading in the new contract by June.



Protesters confront police

Protesters confront French police outside government offices on Sunday in Bastia, north Corsica, as union representatives call off negotiations. Civil servants have been on strike for seven weeks demanding their salaries be kept in line with inflation. (Reuters wirephoto)

Dollar little changed

Recruit scandal pushes Tokyo stocks down

TOKYO, April 10, (Agencies): Tokyo stock market investors and currency dealers stuck to the sidelines today on news that Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita will clarify his links with the scandal-ridden Recruit Company before parliament tomorrow morning, brokers and dealers said.

The 225-share Nikkei index finished down 186.03 points, or 0.56 per cent, at 32,999.02 in very thin trade. The index had ended 189.27 points higher on Friday.

Recent developments in the Recruit share scandal have put increased pressure on Takeshita to resign or call a snap general election, brokers said.

"If all the cabinet ministers stepped down, it would not be good for the stock market. The market has not yet discounted that possibility," one market analyst said.

Tokyo stock and currency markets showed little response to the US March jobs data issued on Friday. It showed the unemployment rate falling to 5.1 per cent in February. Now-farm jobs rose by a smaller-than-expected 180,000.

"US economic growth may be moderating, but the low jobless rate suggests the economy still remains steady," said Naoki Ishii, manager at Mitsui Trust and Banking.

On Wall Street on Friday, traders were confused by the job report's mixed signals.

Record unemployment kept inflation anxieties alive, but the

small number of new jobs created last month suggested the economy is not overly strong, brokers said. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 12.83 points to 2,304.80.

The oil market was quiet. Brent, a benchmark crude, was quoted at \$18.55 a barrel for May delivery in late afternoon, unchanged from Friday's New York close.

In London, share prices were sharply lower today shored lower from the outset when market makers began to slash prices to entice buyers into the market.

Sentiment was further weakened at late morning on news that the provisional UK producer price index for March on a seasonally adjusted basis was above most market forecasts.

Market watchers said participants were concerned about the health of the British economy.

"If you have any stock to recommend today, you're wasting your breath," said one trader. "There's a cloud right across the whole of the market on interest rate, currency and trade fears."

The US dollar was stable in quiet European trading late this morning and foreign currency dealers said most attention had shifted to cross-trading activity. Gold prices were little changed.

"The market lacks ideas," said one trader in Rome, speculating that the only change in sentiment would come from a change in interest rates or from new

developments in Japan's political scandal.

Others said US retail sales statistics and producer prices for March and trade figures for February, all due to be released later this week, may provide the impetus to move the dollar out of its range.

In Tokyo, where trading ends before Europe's business day begins, the dollar rose 0.45 yen to a closing 132.53. Later, in London, it was quoted at 132.70 yen. Other dollar rates at mid-morning, compared with late Friday: — 1.8774 West German marks, up from 1.8745

— 6.3385 Swiss francs, up from 1.6500

— 6.3385 French francs, up from 6.3340

— 2.1171 Dutch guilders, up from 2.1110

— 1.37720 Italian lire, up from 1.37350

— 1.1910 Canadian dollars, down from 1.1928

In London, one British pound cost \$1.6943, slightly cheaper for buyers than late Friday's 1.6975.

Gold opened in London at a bid price of \$382.50 a troy ounce, up from \$381.75 bid late Friday. At mid-morning, the city's five major bullion dealers fixed a recommended price of \$381.60.

In Zurich, the bid price was \$381.50, down from \$381.75 bid late Friday.

Earlier, in Hong Kong, gold fell 1.28 to close at a bid 383.50.

Silver was quoted in London at a bid price of \$5.75 a troy ounce, little changed from Friday's 5.76.

Tehran 'violates OPEC quota'

MANAMA, April 10, (UPI): Iran pumped more oil in March than its OPEC quota allowed but it remained unclear how much crude is going into unsold inventories overseas, an oil industry newsletter said today.

Reports of increased Iranian production came after Iran disclosed that higher oil prices have given Tehran an extra \$1.5 billion revenue over the past three months alone.

Saudi Arabia last week said it would stick to its OPEC quota despite what it described as increasing demand from customers and pressure from OPEC members Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates for higher OPEC quotas.

"Iran's export loadings of crude oil from Kharg island — Lavan and Sirri (terminals) in March totalled around 76 million barrels or an average of 2.45 million barrels per day," the Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey reported.

Exports

"This compared with estimated Iranian crude exports of 2.086 million barrels per day in February and 2.2 million barrels per day in January."

MEES estimated domestic refining output in Iran at 700,000 barrels per day, indicating Iranian crude production around 3.15 million barrels per day for March.

"It is difficult to make any precise inference regarding Iran's OPEC quota (of 2.64 million barrels a day) since it is not clear how much of the export loadings were going into unsold inventories overseas," the newsletter said.

The definition of quota under the rules of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries is based on sales both in the domestic and export markets rather than on production.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh told Tehran radio recently that higher oil prices in the last three months have resulted in a \$1.5 billion windfall in extra revenue for cash-strapped Tehran.

"We are now selling our oil at 50 cents to a dollar more than official OPEC prices," Aghazadeh was quoted as saying.

"I have calculated that in the past three months, our country's revenue has increased by \$1.5 billion due to the firmer price."

Iran this month also announced the first phase of the reconstruction of the war-damaged Abadan refinery.

Development

In a related development, second quarter contract purchases of Iranian crude by Japanese customers appear to be slightly up compared to first quarter purchases.

MEES said the latest tally for second quarter purchases of Iranian crude in 1989 amounted to 270,000 barrels per day for delivery to Japan plus a potential 40,000 barrels per day for delivery to other Far East markets outside Japan, making a total of about 310,000 barrels per day.

Reports from Paris and Tokyo earlier this year indicated that French and Japanese oil companies would reduce their purchases of Iranian crude in the wake of the Salman Rushdie affair.

Japanese customers bought an estimated 305,000 barrels per day of Iranian crude during the first quarter of 1989.

Five years of stagnation ends

East-West trade buoyant: study

GENEVA, April 10, (AP): Soviet-bloc economic reforms and the improved global political climate have helped open an opportunity for the long-term expansion of East-West trade, according to a United Nations study released today.

The annual survey was compiled by experts at the 34-nation UN Economic Commission for Europe, the only economic forum bringing together Eastern and Western Europe, the Soviet Union, the United States and Canada.

The survey confirmed earlier forecasts of a sharp rise in East-West trade last year, ending five years of stagnation. Economic growth in the planned economies rose to 4.1 per cent in 1988 from 2.6 per cent in 1987, according to official rates.

Debt

But the report said it is uncertain whether Eastern Europe can sustain the high pace of exports to the West, due to lagging technology, continuing inefficiency and competition from newly industrialising countries.

Other dangers which have become clearer under policies of increased openness, include domestic budget deficits and upward pressure on prices as government measures stimulate consumer spending, the study said. It noted Hungary and Poland are openly reporting

inflation.

Led by Romania, the Soviet bloc lowered its total net Western debt an estimated \$3 billion to \$98.6 billion in 1988, the study showed. But much of the reduction was due to the rise in the dollar's value, it said.

Figures showed that the Eastern European satellites shifted trade away from the Soviet Union and toward the West last year, a trend the report said is expected to continue in the next few years.

"Sentiment in most Eastern countries appears to have turned again in favour of greater integration into the world economy," the study said.

The study cited among the factors encouraging growth in East-West trade the relaxation of international tensions and economic reforms granting Soviet-bloc enterprises greater autonomy.

Dropped

Romania, where communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu's priority on debt repayment in the 1980s has reportedly led to severe hardship, cut its debt with the West by some \$3 billion last year to \$1.3 billion, the survey showed. As part of the plan, Romania's western imports plunged some 10 per cent last year, producing an estimated \$3-billion annual trade surplus.

But with the evident success of austerity, Romania's "import

growth potential is developing rapidly," the report said.

Meanwhile, Poland and Hungary appeared to have broken the spiral of ever-increasing debt since the mid-1980s.

Eastern European net debt not including the Soviet Union dropped for the first time since 1984 to some \$73 billion, the report said.

Paced by Poland and Romania, Eastern European exports to the West rose 7 per cent in January-September 1988 after three years of stagnation, the study said. Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and East Germany reversed export declines recorded in 1987.

Imports from the West continued a slow recovery with 3 per cent growth. Hungary and Romania, in line with restrictive economic policies, both cut their imports for the second straight year.

Higher oil sales, mainly re-exports of crude from OPEC members, sparked a 13-per cent rise in Soviet exports to the West. Imports jumped 11 per cent after a two-year fall as Western grain shipments rose steeply.

Soviet trade with industrialised market economies swung into a \$2.8-billion deficit last year, according to Western estimates quoted in the report. Eastern Europe's trade surplus with the West, meanwhile, rose for the third straight year to an estimated \$1.7 billion.

GATT pact hailed as landmark

GENEVA, April 10, (Reuters): A new agreement to freeze and then cut government handouts that prop up farming in the world's richer countries is landmark in world trade reform, according to negotiators and agriculture experts.

The accord, clinched on Friday night, saved the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks from collapse after deadlock over farm subsidies in Montreal last December delayed progress on all other issues being negotiated.

"It's path-breaking as it's the first time in history that GATT countries have agreed to reduce agricultural support," Stefan Tangermann, professor of Agricultural Economics at Goettingen University in West Germany, said.

Subsidies are blamed for raising farm output, depressing world market prices and distorting trade. The United States and the European Economic Community both run big support programmes. This distorts countries which depend heavily on farm trade for export earnings but don't have the money to subsidise them.

Lost

Brazil's chief negotiator, Rubens Ricupero, said Washington's use of such subsidies was like "using an atom bomb to solve an irrigation problem." He said his country lost millions of dollars' worth of

export markets in the process.

Now big farming nations are to freeze support and protection immediately and then cut it next year.

Tangermann, who has been closely following the negotiations, said in an interview he was impressed at the extent to which the so-called Cairns Group had influenced the final outcome.

This group of 14 farm-exporting countries, led by Australia, includes Brazil and other Latin American and Third World countries worried about the way the United States and European Economic Community dominate the way global farm trade is run.

"The final text is better than the original," Tangermann said, referring to the Cairns Group's input to GATT director-general Arthur Dunkel's working document on agriculture.

The group came to Geneva demanding an immediate freeze in support and 10 per cent cut by 1990. It threatened a walkout unless its demands were met.

It was no idle threat. The group's Latin American members triggered the breakdown of talks when they did just that last December in Montreal to express disgust over the inability of the United States and the EEC to sort out a quarrel over long-term aims.

Fiat robots in front line of battle for European market

CASSINO, Italy, April 10, (Reuters): Italian auto giant Fiat SPA is throwing robots into the front line of its battle with Volkswagen AG of West Germany for top spot in the European car market.

The rivalry between Volkswagen and Fiat, the continent's leading car manufacturers with just under 15 per cent of the market each last year, intensified this spring with Fiat's inauguration of a highly automated plant in southern Italy that will produce nearly 2,000 cars a day once fully operational.

The factory is sited between Rome and Naples in the shadow of Monte Cassino, a mountain that hit the headlines in World War Two when German and allied troops fought for possession of it.

Now Cassino is at the centre of another struggle against a German adversary. This time the prize is of vital importance for both the region and the Italian car industry as a whole, as Fiat makes a determined drive to outpace VW with technology and secure the coveted top place in the European market.

"Automation here is at a very high level... we welcome comparison with other car fac-

ories, because we think we come out of it very well," Walter Vignale, head of technology development at Fiat's car division Fiat Auto SPA, said.

The factory first started producing tiny Fiat 126 cars in 1972, but is currently nearing the end of 1.9 trillion lire (\$1.4 billion) worth of modernisation to transform its assembly line into one of the most automated in the world.

About half the assembly operations will be performed by robots or other automated machines once investment is completed. The welding and spray paint shops are already fully automated.

Vehicles

"For the first time in the world, in this factory, the advanced automated technology already developed for motors and mechanical parts is being applied to the assembly process... it is a step towards the abolition of the traditional assembly line," Fiat president Giovanni Agnelli said at the official inauguration in March.

The factory's 7,000 staff, many of them

maintenance and quality control employees rather than traditional manual workers, are aided by more than 400 robots and 100 quality control machines equipped with laser sensors and video cameras.

Car parts and semi-finished vehicles glide around the factory from one work-station to another on a fleet of more than 500 driverless automatic electric trucks.

Workers wear colour-coded clothing to identify their functions — blue for assembly line, orange for maintenance, green for quality control — and monitor the progress of the cars through the assembly process on banks of computer screens.

The robots were built mainly by Fiat's own industrial automation subsidiary Comau SPA, and were designed to give flexibility by being able to handle different models.

The plant currently produces around 1,250 cars a day, 1,000 of them the new Tipo four-door compact which came on the market early last year. The rest are older Regatta models, production of which is gradually falling.

Plant output should rise around 1,800 cars a day soon.

West German minister opens Bauma '89

BONN, April 10, (KUNA): West German Regional Planning Housing and City Planning Minister Oscar Schneider opened last night the 22nd exhibition for construction equipments and materials (Bauma '89) in Munich the capital of federal Bavaria.

Schneider in an inauguration statement before representatives of foreign and local construction industry companies, drew the attention to the importance of keeping the European market open to international products in 1993 when the last economic barriers are removed among the EEC members.

He pointed out that the European conventional construction equipment producers will benefit from the inter-European market, underlining however that their success depends on marketing their commodities in the international markets.

Bauma '89, open in the period April 10-16, displays products of 1,295 companies from 30 countries and is expected to draw 190,000 visitors, 44 per cent of whom would be from abroad.

Gulf Air to buy new planes

DOHA, April 10, (KUNA): Gulf Air has decided to purchase 18 new planes of various kinds within a plan to upgrade the company's fleet, Gulf Air executive director Ali Al Malki announced today.

Speaking to the Qatari News Agency, Ali Malki said the decision was reached last night during the company's board meeting.

He clarified that Gulf Air fleet will total 40 jets following the purchases which will be completed by 1994.

Gulf Air is owned jointly by Qatar, UAE, Bahrain and Oman and in 1974 its fleet only grouped four small-size planes.

Ivory imports

HONG KONG, April 10, (Reuters): Hong Kong said today it would ban all direct or indirect imports of ivory from Somalia from May 23.

A government spokesman said the ban followed one imposed by the United States on February 24. The US action included sanctions against third countries not following suit within a three month grace period.

Hong Kong imported 13.4 tonnes of ivory from Somalia in 1988 compared with 12.6 tonnes the previous year.

APL expands operations

Container flow on the rise

OAKLAND, Calif., April 10: American President Lines has introduced a new systemwide deployment of container ships and intermodal services that is designed to significantly improve its import/export delivery services in North America and Asia.

The new deployment features major adjustments to the schedules and routes of APL ships, more frequent intermodal connections at the US West Coast and faster throughput at APL's major container terminals in the Pacific.

The result is faster international transit times and more reliable service between key markets, and departures and arrivals on fixed days of the week that more closely meet the needs of customers in various regions.

"This new deployment reflects our goal of establishing new standards of reliability for trans-Pacific and intra-Asia service," said Timothy J. Rhein, APL president. "It will help us meet the increasingly high service expectations of our customers and advance our overall commitment to quality."

At the heart of APL's vessel adjustments is a unique weekly "counter-rotation" of ships sailing between the Far East and California.

By rotating two groups of vessels each week in opposite directions in this trade, the company can better match the specific needs of the markets it serves with the capacity and service speeds of its vessels.

Under the new deployment, for example, the company's largest container ships — the recently built C10-class vessels — will

transit the Pacific each week in a counter-clockwise direction, carrying cargo to California ports from Hong Kong, Taiwan, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Southeast and West Asia, the principal trade regions in the Eastbound trade.

The C10s will then pick up North American exports and transport them directly to major markets in Japan, Korea and other points in North Asia, the primary markets for Westbound movements.

In the clockwise direction, APL's C9- and J9-class vessels provide fast, direct weekly service from California to Guam, Taiwan and Hong Kong, and return to California with cargo from Japan and Korea. (A third group of vessels provides express weekly service between the Pacific Northwest and Asia.)

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"APL's unique logistics capabilities and computer support systems enabled us to devise this pattern to meet the needs of growing markets in Asia, while maintaining our same high level of service to other points," Rhein said.

To accommodate the increased container flow at its US ports as a result of the new vessel deployment, the company has expanded its three West Coast ocean terminals, and new high-speed gantry cranes have been installed in Oakland, Los Angeles and Seattle.

The number of cross-country stacktrain departures offered by APL's affiliate, American President Intermodal, has been increased.

These moves, combined with the changes in vessel routes, have resulted in improved transit times between Asia and both the US West Coast and major inland markets in the Midwest, Southeast and Atlantic regions.

For example, under the new deployment, APL offers 13-day Eastbound service from Hong Kong to Los Angeles (San Pedro), 18-day service from Hong Kong to New York, 23-day service from Bangkok to Chicago, and 16-day service from Kaohsiung to Atlanta. These represent one- to seven-day reductions and are the fastest transit times in the industry, Rhein said.

Westbound service for North American exports has also been improved. For example, APL now offers a 26-day service from Seattle to Bangkok, 25-day service from Houston to Singapore, and a 30-day service from Los Angeles to Jakarta. These represent two- to five-day reductions in transit times.

To improve delivery reliability for intermodal shipments, APL is using its in-house trucking affiliate, American President Trucking, for pickup and delivery of cargo in major cities such as Chicago and Atlanta. This increases the company's control over the entire cargo movement, Rhein said.

APL has also improved the efficiency and capacity of its operations at its terminal in Kaohsiung, Taiwan — the company's major trans-Pacific and intra-Asia relay centre — through the acquisition of a second berth, the installation of three new super-cranes and the introduction of Proprietary Computer Systems to handle vessel stowage and cargo routing.

BUSINESS

Western economies to slow down in '89

GENEVA, April 10, (Reuters): Western economies will probably slow down in 1989 after rebounding surprisingly well from the 1987 stock market crash, UN economists said today.

The UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) said in its annual economic survey for 1988-89 that slower growth was likely largely because central banks introduced tighter monetary policy in the second half of 1988 to control inflation.

Western European consumption was also approaching a natural cyclical peak, it said. But European capital spending would probably rise, and the economies would still be robust.

"Although no longer booming, the United States economy remains strong, while in Western Europe the impulses for a continuing upswing, particularly of fixed investment, are still considerable," the

report said.

The ECE groups all 32 European nations as well as the United States and Canada, and the report said that according to official Eastern European statistics the centrally planned economies were also growing strongly.

The report said a resurgence of inflation and the size of the US budget deficit threatened the world economy.

Reduction
It called for a reduction of the deficit at a rate gradual enough not to provoke recession but steady enough to achieve real reduction. "If the (US) administration fails to introduce effective fiscal measures of its own, the adjustment will be imposed by the international financial markets," it said.

The survey said effective international co-operation, for example co-ordinated

interest rate cuts, had helped stop the October 1987 crash forcing slower economic growth in the free market economies in 1988 as economists had forecast.

In the end, the West's economic activity — measured by gross domestic product after taking inflation into account — grew 3.1 per cent in 1987.

US growth accelerated to 4.0 per cent from 3.5 per cent the year before and was expected to slow down this year to 2.75-3.0 per cent.

Western European economies grew at 3.6 per cent, their fastest rate since 1976 and up from 2.6 per cent in 1987, but that rate was forecast to slow to 2.5-2.8 per cent this year.

According to official figures, the growth rate in Eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union, rose to 4.1 per cent in 1988 from 2.6 per cent the year before.

The ECE said however, that sometimes Eastern European figures were "optimistic". Alternative professional estimates put Soviet growth in 1988 at considerably lower than the 4.5 per cent official figure.

Moscow intends to increase its economy — measured by net material product (NMP) — by 6.0 per cent in 1989, and the other Eastern European economies planned 4.4 per cent growth on average.

But internal problems, the expected slow-down in the world economy and the effects of economic reforms would make 3.5 per cent a more realistic average growth rate for these countries, the ECE said.

Growth in the socialist economies has been helped by buoyant East-West trade, due partly to a warming international political climate and economic reforms in the East bloc.

Soviet decree permits lease of land for 50 years

MOSCOW, April 10, (AP): Soviet citizens and businesses were given the right to lease land for 50 or more years, sub-lease it to others and pass it on to their children when they die under a decree published in yesterday's newspapers.

The new law gives citizens the same right to lease animals, equipment, and even entire factories.

It grants considerably more extensive property rights than many activists had hoped for after the Communist Party leadership approved the principle of leasing land to family and co-operative farms at a meeting in March.

The right to sub-lease, while common in Western nations, is significant in the Soviet Union because it opens the possibility of Soviets taking out long-term land leases, building homes and offices on the property and renting them out.

But the new law stipulates that permission for sub-leasing must be obtained from the state agency that oversees control of the land.

During 70 years of communist rule, Soviet citizens have had virtually no property rights. The change in policy was prompted by the country's severe economic problems.

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev told Communist Party leaders last month they had to restore the feeling among citizens that they control their land because billions of roubles invested in agriculture had produced only marginal harvest increases.

Property

The newspaper *Socialisticheskaya Industriya* said yesterday, "It is possible to eliminate the working people's estrangement from property only in one way — through redistributing it in their favour, and not in favour of raceless state economic machinery."

"What we need is the most resolute and most revolutionary decree which would take property from the hands of the state machinery and turn it over to those who produce things themselves," the newspaper said.

The leasing decree provides for that possibility, but does not force it to occur.

S. Yemen, France sign pact

Aden refinery to get face-lift

LONDON, April 10, (Reuters): South Yemen with French help is to modernise its Aden refinery to cope with oil through Soviet-built pipelines from its Shabwa oilfields. Energy Minister Saleh Abubaker Bin Hussainoun was quoted yesterday as saying.

He told the London Saudi Arabian-owned newspaper *Ashtarq* Al Awsat an initial agreement with France had been signed for \$30 million for the refurbishment of the refinery but gave no date when work would start.

Bin Hussainoun said the Shabwa pipelines will open by the end of this year or early next year and will initially carry 30,000 barrels of oil per day (BPD) rising to 120,000 BPD in 1991.

He estimated there were 500 million tonnes of oil reserves in Shabwa region.

Hussainoun said South

Yemen's current oil production was 800 tonnes per day which had to be transported by road tankers from Shabwa where oil was first discovered in 1986.

Hussainoun said the French oil company Elf-Aquitaine had been given production-sharing concessions for 20 years in Aden, Ibban province and north of Shabwa region while Total had the same arrangement east of Shabwa region.

South Yemen and Iraq have agreed to increase the amount of Iraqi oil refined in Aden from the current 15,000 BPD and to provide Iraqi experts to help run the refinery.

Asked if South Yemen would join the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Hussainoun said: "That is possible when we start exporting oil."

Meanwhile, Venezuela is trying to resolve disputes over

demands by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for higher oil quotas ahead of OPEC's ministerial meeting in June, UAE oil sources said yesterday.

They said an envoy of President Carlos Andres Perez was in the UAE for talks on the problem, which almost blocked a quotas agreement by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) last year.

Alirio Parra, London-based director of the Venezuela Petroleum Company, would give UAE President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahayan a letter from Perez on the issue, they said. Parra would then go on to Kuwait today.

"OPEC states seem to realise that the UAE quota has become a sensitive issue and they have to do something about it," said one source, who declined to be identified.

Kinnock dubs Thatcher the immaculate misconception

BIRMINGHAM, England, April 10, (Reuters): British opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock called Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher "the immaculate misconception" yesterday in one of his most scathing attacks against her.

At a Labour rally to prepare for county and European Parliament elections, Kinnock accused Thatcher of betraying Britain's future by selling off state-owned industries.

"There has certainly been discord and error and doubt and despair in this decade of Margaret Antoinette," he said. "But the response to discord hasn't been harmony. It's been confrontation turned into a system of government."

Success

He mocked Thatcher, who marks 10 years in office in May, as "a fount of all wisdom, the source of all success who always knows better than anyone else."

Kinnock spoke in the central English city of Birmingham after recent opinion polls put Labour ahead of Thatcher's Conservatives at a time of rising inflation and high interest rates.

Conservative Party leaders say Thatcher's policies have brought prosperity to Britain.

Bread prices on the rise

WARSAW, Poland, April 10, (AP): The government announced yesterday that bread prices would be increased 26 per cent starting today, the state-run news agency PAP said.

The price of a normal loaf of white bread is scheduled to increase from 49 zlotys (8 cents) a loaf to 62 zlotys (10 cents), and the price of better quality bread will go from 57 zlotys (10 cents) to 72 zlotys (12 cents) a loaf, the agency said.

The Ministry of Finance ordered the price increase in order to stop "the decline in profitability" of the banking industry, PAP said.

Production

Bakers in Warsaw reduced production of white bread for about two weeks in mid-March to protest low wages in the industry.

The bakers were demanding a 100 per cent pay raise, but they later suspended their protest without winning salary increases.

BP suspends output on big North Sea platform

LONDON, April 10, (Reuters): British Petroleum Co. PLC (BP) said on Saturday it had shut a big North Sea oil platform for several days because of a fault in fire-fighting equipment.

A spokesman said the Alpha Forties platform, which produces 46,000 barrels per day (BPD), and the related Subsea Echo field (54,000 BPD) would be shut until the middle of next week.

One of the platform's three fire pumps had developed a fault, cutting the amount of water available, he said.

The fault comes at a time of heightened public concern about safety on North Sea oil installations and curtailed British output because of accidents.

Last July, fire and explosions ripped through Occidental Petroleum Corp.'s Piper Alpha platform killing 167 men in the worst ever offshore oil disaster.

Blast shuts down oil refinery

LAGOS, Nigeria, April 10, (AP): An explosion has forced the closure of one of OPEC nation's three operational refineries. The country already has been suffering fuel shortages and probably will have to import refined petroleum products, the government-owned Lagos Times said today.

The Times said OPEC president Rikman Lukman, Nigeria's petroleum minister, visited the damaged Warri refinery and ordered the detention of the engineers who were on duty when the explosion occurred Saturday.

The blast, in the atmospheric crude distillation unit, reportedly awakened residents in the city of Warri, 10 kilometres (6 miles) from the refinery. Warri is in Nigeria's oil-rich delta near the Atlantic coast.

Lukman assessed the damage during his Saturday evening visit, but made no statement. Refinery officials said it could take months to make the repairs.

The explosion occurred two weeks after President Gen. Ibrahim Babangida had formally opened a new refinery in Port Harcourt, also in the southern delta, which can handle 150,000 barrels daily. Babangida said the opening of the new refinery would permit his government to halt further imports of refined petroleum.

Nigeria requires 280,000 barrels daily to meet its domestic needs. Shortages of gasoline have been reported in several states.

Premier agrees to answer questions

Takeshita to clarify his link with share scandal

TOKYO, April 10, (Agencies): Japan's opposition and ruling parties reached a deal today for Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita to address parliament about his links with a share scandal involving payments to public figures.

An official of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party said Takeshita would answer questions to clarify his position on Tuesday at a budget committee session.

Takeshita is reportedly ready to admit he accepted more than \$750,000 in gifts from the scandalous Recruit Co., a publications conglomerate that rose to the top of Japan's business world allegedly with the help of bribed politicians.

Public support for Takeshita has sunk to below 10 per cent, the lowest for any postwar Japanese prime minister, but the prime minister has vowed to defy mounting calls for his resignation.

The scandal has brought much of Japan's government to a standstill, including the Diet, or Japanese parliament, where debate on the 1989 national budget has stopped.

Hopes

Takeshita agreed to answer questions on the scandal from opposition party members for three hours during a budget committee meeting beginning at 9:30 am Tuesday, government and party officials said.

Takeshita hopes his action will end an opposition boycott of the committee, so the budget, which



Noboru Takeshita

was supposed to take effect April 1, can be approved, party officials said.

Opposition parties said they will not end their boycott until former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, who is also deeply involved in the scandal, is brought before the Diet as a sworn witness.

"We accepted the LDP's offer but we will limit the reopening of the Diet to questioning Takeshita," said Shunichi Enomoto, head of the Diet Affairs Office of the clean government party.

After Takeshita answers the questions, the opposition parties will resume their boycott of the proceedings.

Calling Takeshita before the committee is the first show of opposition party strength following a meeting of opposition leaders last week in which they vowed to unite to oust the prime minister.

Takeshita's Liberal Democratic Party has held power in Japan for 34 years in part because of the inability of the opposition to unite.

Timepiece fetches world record price

GENEVA, April 10, (AP): The world's most complicated watch, which took a team of jewellers nine years to design and assemble, became the world's most expensive when it was auctioned off in less than two minutes on Sunday for (4.5 million Swiss francs) \$2.74 million.

Bidding for the 18-carat gold Patek Philippe watch that packs 1,728 parts — but must be wound every 30 hours — began at 2.75 million francs (\$1.67 million) and moved up quickly.

The buyer's name was withheld, but the auctioneer — Habsburg, Feldman of Geneva — said he was a South American. Along with a 10 per cent commission and 6.2 per cent federal sales tax, the buyer will pay 5,229,000 Swiss francs (\$3,169,000) for the timepiece.

Previously, the highest price paid for a watch at auction was \$1.2 million in 1984 for a clock from the mid-17th century.

The capacity audience of 700 in the ballroom of Geneva's plush Hotel des Bergues broke into applause when the gavel sealed the deal.

Sale

The sale wound up an auction of 291 watches that fetched a total of 25,150,000 Swiss francs (\$15,242,000), making it the world's biggest watch sale. Eighteen watches were sold for more than \$100,000 each. Ten other watches went unsold.

The most expensive timepiece was viewed by nearly 10,000 potential buyers and watch buffs during a pre-sale tour that stopped in Europe, the United States, Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Made by Geneva's Patek Philippe to mark its 150th anniversary, the 8.8-centimetre (3.4-inches) diameter watch contains 68 springs, 126 jewels and 332 screws.

It is the first watch in the world that determines the date of Easter, which varies. And it features a disc of sapphire crystal showing the Milky Way and 2,600 distinct stars in five sizes according to their order of magnitude.

Geza von Habsburg, spokesman for the auctioneer, said that at the request of the buyer, the watch will be named after a Japanese goddess of agriculture, "Kuma."

Allowing the first buyer to name the watch is in line with a tradition followed by the company since it sold an earlier complicated watch to US automobile tycoon James Ward Packard for \$3,100 in 1927.

The "Packard watch" was bought back by Patek Philippe for more than \$1.2 million in 1987.

Examination planned in Arabic

ASCA consolidates its professional structure

THE Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA), a pan-Arab professional body, has devoted itself over the last five years to establishing the deep-rooted fundamentals and groundwork needed for the re-organisation of the Arab accounting profession and the increase in its effectiveness in serving the economies of the Arab world.

Through the efforts of a distinguished group of leading Arab professional accountants, the society has made tremendous progress in focussing greater emphasis on the role of the Arab professional accountant and in providing an appropriate foundation for mobilising the potential of the Arab accounting profession.

Talal Abu Ghazaleh said, ASCA has consolidated its scientific and professional structure through a continued series of successes. It has put considerable effort into attaining Arab and international support in order to boost its stature and to provide a greater impetus for further accomplishments.

In this last decade of the 20th century, the ASCA looks forward with great confidence to the beginning of a new era, an era of even more significant achievements.

Role
Getting where we are today was not at all easy. At the outset, the society harnessed Arab accounting capabilities dispersed throughout the Arab world by successfully attracting in some of the best qualified and most respected accounting practitioners.

ASCA provided them with an optimal setting in which to work as a team towards the realisation of their aspirations and to make their contribution to determining a better future for the profession in Arab countries.

The obtaining of international recognition of its role and activities was seen as highly important, and considerable efforts were expended by ASCA towards achieving this.

Within two years of its establishment, ASCA became a full member of the International Federation of Accountants in New York, the recognised world-wide organisation of professional accounting societies.

The ambitions of the board members of ASCA — all leaders of the profession in the Arab world — extended beyond simply recognition towards active participation in these international bodies which have an impact on the world-wide accounting profession.

ASCA was elected a member of the boards of the International Accounting Standards Committee and the International Auditing Practices Committee. These are the leading international committees in their fields. Hence, Arabs are now, for the first time, participating in the formulation of accounting and auditing principles and taking on a share of the responsibility for determining the future format of these principles.

In addition, ASCA has given maximum support to national accounting societies throughout the Arab world and has assisted many of them to obtain membership of the International Federation of Accountants.

It has been active, through numerous channels, in developing the sciences of accounting and financial management, promoting the levels of efficiency, professional practices, and ethics among its members as well as safeguarding professional independence of members and providing guidelines for the control of their practices.

Thus ASCA has been able to restore respectability to the accounting profession and to underline and promote the importance of accounting and the accountant in both the public and private sectors.

Graduates in commerce, economics and business administration from all over the Arab world can now obtain the title of Arab Certified Accountant by undergoing a high

level course of study and passing examinations tailored for this purpose.

Abu Ghazaleh said: "This is an excellent and exciting opportunity which we invite you to take advantage of, hoping that it will open doors to progress and development both for you and the accounting profession and thus enabling both to better assume their great responsibilities in Arab economic development."

The Examinations Supervisory Board (ESB) of the ASCA has announced that Arab graduates in commerce, economics and business administration throughout the Arab world can acquire the title of "Arab Certified Accountant."

A group of accounting professors from a number of Arab universities has completed the translation of the study material for Part (I) of the examinations, to be held in November this year.

The language difficulties which Arab students encountered when sitting for British examinations, in the framework of the joint examination programme between ASCA and Chartered Association of Certified Accountants, have compelled ASCA to take a more practical and realistic approach to recognising the circumstances of Arab students.

The ASCA examination, in its three parts, shall now be given in Arabic.

ASCA has commenced registration of students who wish to acquire the title of Arab Certified Accountant as follows:

Entry shall be limited to graduates of business administration, commerce, economics or similar disciplines. University degree is the minimum entry requirement.

The completed student registration form and its attachments must be sent to: Student Affairs Office, Arab Society of Certified Accountants, P.O. Box 4628 Safat, 13047 Safat, Kuwait or to any ASCA offices.

Allegation about palm oil baseless, says official

PALM oil, one of the main export items of Malaysia, has recently been a subject of smear campaigns in the United States. A certain Phil Sokolof placed nationwide newspaper ads which warned of the "poisoning of America through tropical oils, namely coconut and palm oil which are widely used in processed foods."

He claimed that palm oil is rich in saturated fats which in turn increases blood cholesterol levels. The allegation was carried by one of the English dailies in Kuwait.

A senior official of the Malaysian embassy in Kuwait said that the campaign was meant to mislead and frighten the general consumer by distorting the nutritional value of palm oil. The true facts about palm oil are as follows:

Initial scientific research has provided evidence that palm oil is a healthy and nutritious vegetable oil with positive anti-thrombotic properties.

Palm oil, like all vegetable oils, is cholesterol free, whereas animal oils and fats are rich in cholesterol as shown: lard — 3,500 parts per million (PPM), butter — 3,150 PPM, tallow — 1,100 PPM, soybeans — 28 PPM (negligible), palm oil — 18 PPM (negligible).

Palm oil can be used in its natural form and, generally, does not require artificial hardening or hydrogenation.

Polyunsaturated vegetable oils on the other hand must be hydrogenated, a process that seems to promote saturation and creates trans fatty acids before they can be used for shortening or for any other form of solid fat products.

Palm oil provides a rich source of vitamin E. This is present in a unique combination of tocopherols and tocotrienols, which are natural anti-oxidants, making palm oil a superior frying medium for the food industry.

Natural palm oil also provides a rich source of beta-carotene, which has attracted interest in cancer research as a potential anti-cancer agent.

Palm oil is extracted from the steam-sterilised fruit without the use of solvent (chemicals), which is generally used when extracting polyunsaturated oils.

Palm oil has a balanced composition with 50 per cent saturates and 50 per cent unsaturates.

In recent nutrition studies, mono-saturates were credited with lowering blood cholesterol. Forty per cent of palm oil is mono-unsaturates, whereas soybean oil, for example, has only 24 per cent mono-unsaturates.

The above facts have been well researched by the Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia (PORIM) and other renowned research institutes of the world. A synopsis of the findings can be found in the booklet entitled "Pocketbook of Palm Oil Uses".

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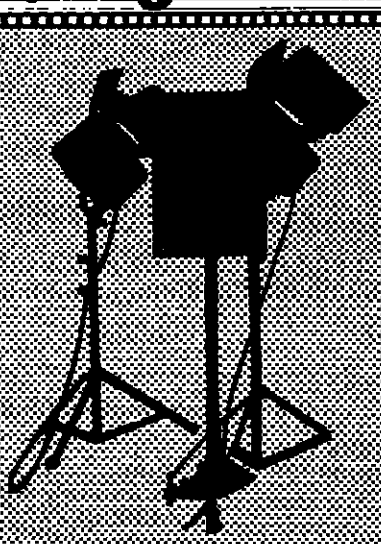
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B & H Management Challenge

Who is the best manager of them all?

THE 1989 Benson & Hedges Management Challenge is underway, with an open invitation to managers and businessmen in the Middle East to join in this successful and prestigious competition.

The McDermott International team from Dubai received the grand final award of the Benson & Hedges Management Challenge in Malaysia last year. They were the fifth team in as many years to join one of the most exclusive groups in the Middle East: the winners of the Benson & Hedges Management Challenge. This business competition, which started in 1984 and was first won by a team from the Commercial Bank of Kuwait, has expanded each year, attracting increasing enthusiasm, interest and support from all business circles in the Middle East.

The 1988 Benson & Hedges Management Challenge will, for the first time, reach beyond the GCC region to include the kingdom of Jordan. Now, managers and businessmen from nine locations in the Middle East region are invited to put their managerial talents to the test and take part in this year's competition. Not only will they gain further experience, but they may also earn the opportunity to



Professor Bob Thomas of Ashridge College.

progress to the final stages of the Challenge where excellence is richly rewarded.

"Quality management has become such a valuable asset in the business world, especially in the Middle East, and this quality should be identified and rewarded," says Sanjiv Mehta,

who with Professor Bob Thomas designed this year's questionnaire for the First Stage of the competition. Sanjiv Mehta should know, having been a former grand winner of the Benson & Hedges Management Challenge in 1986 with the Anjali Trading Estab-

lishment from Riyadh. He now teaches at Ashridge Management College of the UK, which has been supervising and judging the Challenge since its inception.

If you are a manager in the Middle East, you too can take part in this year's challenge. All you have to do for now is form a team of three managers from your company, and respond to the launch campaign in the press, by completing the coupon and sending it to the address shown on the entry form.

In the First Stage of the competition you will be asked seven multiple-choice questions, four of which concern the expansion options of a small company based in the Gulf. The other three questions are general business knowledge.

All entries will be carefully analysed by the experts at Ashridge Management College. Six teams in each of the nine Middle East locations will be promoted to the Second Stage of the competition: The Country Finals.

The Country Finals will be conducted on location throughout the Middle East, during September 1989. The Country Finals in each location will compete, over one day, for the regional titles. The

interactive computer-simulated tests will qualify a team of country champions in each location to proceed to the grand final, the ultimate stage of the Challenge.

The Ashridge Management College of the UK will host the Grand Final this year. All the Country Champions will be flown in from their locations to the UK, where, over two days, they will compete for the honour of winning the grand finals of the 1989 Benson & Hedges Management Challenge.

The winners will receive a portfolio of gold shares worth \$10,000 each, and the Benson & Hedges Gold Medal, minted of 22 carat gold by Spink & Co. of London. The company of the winning team will be awarded a boardroom trophy and the coveted Benson & Hedges Management Challenge Award Certificate. The other grand finalists will also receive commemorative gold medals.

The last time Ashridge Management College hosted the grand final was in 1987, when Price Waterhouse of Bahrain won the title with an impressive victory. This year's winners will have to earn their place on the winners roll against tougher and wider competition from eight other grand finalists.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 11.00 Holy Quran
- 11.30 Al Madrasah Al Mohammadia: religious serial
- 12.15 Cartoons
- 12.30 Cultural film
- 1.30 Cartoon serial
- 2.00 Al Nabi Ha Hina: historical serial, starring Mahmoud Yaseen, Madiha Kamel, Amina Rizk
- 3.15 Ibtihal Deeni
- 3.30 Daerat Al Naar: Arabic serial, starring Talhat Hamdi, Samar Sami, Rashid Asaf
- 4.30 Musabaqat Al Ramadan
- 5.00 Al Rihaya: Arabic serial, starring Noora, Yusuf Shaban, Salah Saadani, Ahmad Maher
- 5.50 Hadith Deeni
- 6.00 Quran Al Kareem
- 6.30 Safinah Al Asdiqah: cartoon serial
- 7.00 B'aad Al Iftar: Hadith Deeni
- 7.15 Al Tam'aen: serial for children, starring Khalid Al Obaid, Ali Mufeedi, Muna Essaa
- 8.15 Islam and Muslims around the world: focus on the life of Thai Muslims
- 9.30 Musabaqat Ramadan
- 10.00 News in Arabic
- 10.50 A'ad Wa Lakin: Arabic serial, starring Ghanem Al Saleh, Hayat Al

Fahad, Maryam Ghadban, Dawood Hussein

- 11.45 Asakum An Awada, presented by Rasha Majdi
- 12.00 Al Talatha: daily serial, featuring Mahmoud Mursi, Ma'ali Zayed
- 1.00 Wadi Al Ghazal: bedouin serial, starring Mahmoud Saeed, Sabah Jazairi, Adeb Qadoura
- 2.05 World News via Satellite
- 2.30 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 8.00 Holy Quran
- 8.10 Islamic Horizons
- 8.20 Cartoons
- 8.30 Captain Power: a sci-fi adventure set in 2147. Lord Dread wages war against the human race and Captain Power attempts to stop his advance
- 9.00 News in English
- 9.30 Forty Hadith: religious programme
- 10.30 The Fourth Arm: set in the World War II, it tells the story of a British officer commissioned to destroy an ammunition factory
- 11.00 Bustan Loos: comedy with Jimmy Walker. Nicky makes an unprofitable sale.



Edward Woodward is The Equaliser, on KTV 2.

- 11.30 "Q.E.D.: The Magic of Memory." Can you improve your memory? Scientists believe it can and work out a series of experiments.
- 12.00 The Equaliser: "Riding the Elephant." A Thai couple are being exploited by their boss and McCall is asked to step in... Starring: Edward Woodward
- 1.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

- 0000 Newdesk
- 30 Megamix
- 0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
- 25 Financial News
- 30 Short Story
- 45 Europe's World
- 0200 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 Network UK
- 30 Sports International
- 0300 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 The World Today
- 30 John Peel
- 0400 Newdesk
- 30 The Learning World
- 45 New Ideas
- 55 Book Choice
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Financial News
- 45 Words of Faith
- 45 The World Today
- 0600 Newdesk
- 30 Achers Away (ex 4th The Bee's Lost Beatles Tapes)
- 0700 World News
- 09 Twenty-four Hours: News Summary

- Summary
- 30 Europe's World
- 45 Network UK
- 0800 World News
- 09 Words of Faith
- 15 Teach Talk
- 30 Music
- 0900 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 The World Today
- 30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
- 45 Chopin Collection
- 1000 News Summary followed by Discovery
- 30 Sports International
- 1100 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 The World Today
- 25 Book Choice
- 30 Megamix
- 1200 Newdesk
- 15 Multitrack 1: Top 20
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1300 World News
- 09 Twenty-four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Network UK

- 45 Singh Gospel!
- 1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
- 45 Chopin Collection
- 1500 Newdesk
- 15 A Jolly Good Show
- 1600 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Omnibus
- 45 The World Today

Urdu

- EVENING
- 2100 Opening
- 2102 In the Latin Mood
- 2130 News
- 2145 Point of View
- 2155 Songs and Music
- 2200 Islam
- 2215 In the Groove
- 2245 Daily Programme
- 2300 Hit Special
- 2330 Jazz in Action
- 2400 Closedown

CINEMA TODAY

- Al Andalus Night of the Creeps Starring: Jason, Steve Marshall, Jill Tyler
- Al Salmiya Timing of the Scrooge Starring: Adriano Scintano
- Al Hama Urban Warriors Starring: Kari Langdon, Deborah Keith
- Drive-In Al Duniya Jinh Yamama (Arabic) Starring: Mahmoud Abdul Aziz, Mervat Ameen
- Al Firdous Agnee (Hindi) Starring: Mithun Chakraborty, Amrita Singh
- Fahad Open-Air Biwi-o-Biwi (Hindi)
- Al Fahad Roar
- Al Jahra Baper Beta

- Granada Hundra
- Salaibikhat Nico
- Al Jeeb Gol-Maal (Bengali)
- Almadi Drive-in Amber Al Maut (Arabic)

PRAYERS

- Fajr 4.05 am
- Zuhr 11.49
- Asr 3.23 pm
- Maghreb 6.13
- Isha 7.31

RAMADAN TIMINGS

- Imsak 3.55 am
- Ifar 6.13 pm



Streets of Yemen

Through the paintings of Yemeni artist Abdullah Al Amin now on show at Ghadir gallery, one gets a glimpse of the environment that surrounds. Though the theme of Amin's painting is distinctly Arab, his style varies as he tackles "tracking" in Yemen, relaxation, folklore or details the life of people in his country. Mud houses, a view of a bakery, or people working, dreaming of telling folk tales are captured on the canvas of Al Amin.

The exhibition runs until April 13.



A play for Keralites

A Malayalee dance-drama Karutha Purnami was recently performed by Gayathri Arts at the IAC hall. The play written by Chandra Mohan, was directed by Nandan Irinjalkuda. The sets were designed by Sam Mathews, Gopu, Ravi and Sethu. Music was by Viswalek. Above: Nirmala Nandakumar, Rajan Menon and Nandakumar; (below): Nandakumar and Ramkrishnan in scenes from the play.



KALPAK picnic

Kerala Art and Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait (KALPAK), held a picnic for their members at Egalia Beach. Games included pounthoddi, musical chairs, lemon and spoon race and many others for both men and women. Winners received prizes. Above: one of the winners receiving her prize from a KALPAK member.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Ghadir Gallery
UNTIL April 13: Yemeni artist Abdullah Al Amin will show his latest paintings at the Ghadir Gallery, Salihiya Complex. The exhibition will be open from 9 am to 12.00 noon and 7-10 pm.

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday to Wednesday, 8-9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 7.00 to 10.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Tareq Rajab Museum
RAMADAN timings Sat - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 7-10 pm. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world on show.

Sadu House
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12

noon: 7 to 10 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts - rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

THEATRE

Hindi play
MAY 4/5: 8 pm. Sharq Cooperative Society. Natya Bharati presents Hindi play entitled 'Bin Baati ke Deep', followed by dinner catered by Caesars. For entry and dinner passes contact Tel: 4880965; 5623810; 3725627.

Reflections
April 22-27 (8.30 pm): The School of Contemporary Dance will present a repertoire of ballet entitled "Reflections" at the Mousetrap Theatre to celebrate their 15th anniversary. Tickets - KD 4. Box office open from 4-6.30 pm. Sat-Wed; ticket order: answer phone - 5382099, 2-6 pm.

CINEMA

British Council
April 15/16, (6.30 pm): To the Lighthouse, a film version of Virginia Woolf's novel, is this month's feature film. It is summer of 1912 and the Ramsay family is once again on holiday in Cornwall. Six-year-

old James' ambition to go to the lighthouse is constantly thwarted by his father. The children begin to resent their tyrannical father and the family slowly breaks up after the death of Mrs Ramsey. Ten years later, the family returns to Cornwall to a very different atmosphere. Starring: Michael Cough and Rosemary Harris. Admission is free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 2515512; 2533203; 2533227.

SOCIAL

Summer Affair '89
FIRST Day of Eid: The Weekend Club will host the Summer Affair '89 at Regency Palace Hotel on the first day of Eid. Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers in attendance. Highlights: Live contest, gala buffet and selection of Summer Queen contest. Tel: Hilary Baretti 5741380 (2-7.30 pm); Julio 5734513 (5 pm onwards); and Mercedes 4890566 (from 3 pm).

Remo's Show
MAY 11: The Expatriates Club will hold a dinner-musical at the SAS Hotel. Remo, India's pop-star will give a recital. Bands in attendance: City Limits and Perfect Strangers. For further information contact 2415439.

Pakistani Eid Dinner
FIRST Day of Eid: There will be an "Eid Milan" dinner for the Pakistani community, organised by Yasmin Muzaffar. Tel: 5385341.

May Queen
May 11: Kuwait Goans will crown the May Queen at Messiah Beach Hotel. Top Ranks and Next of Kin in attendance.

beheld at the Church Hall from 2.30 to 6.30 pm. All Filipinos are welcome. Free admission.

Summer Affair '89
MAY 6: The Weekend Club will hold the Summer Affair '89 at Regency Palace Hotel on the first day of Eid. Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers in attendance. Highlights: Live contest, gala buffet and selection of Summer Queen contest. Tel: Hilary Baretti 5741380 (2-7.30 pm); Julio 5734513 (5 pm onwards); and Mercedes 4890566 (from 3 pm).

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Highlights of the evening will be Alexandre Rosario's performance. For details call 2413348; 4881387.

Casuals Cricket Club
MAY 18: 8 pm, Messiah Beach Hotel: Annual dinner with special guest speaker Brian Close, former captain of England and Yorkshire. Live music. For tickets and information call Simon Clements - 5333248; or Val Tudball - 5327159.

HOTELS

Al Ramada Al Salam
El Bender: offers special iftar and subour buffet. Al Gandoul Grill Garden, open in the evenings offers a selection of grills in the ambience of a waterfall.

Al Mawardi Garden: After iftar, relax in the open-air with a cup of tea or coffee and watch a selection of movies on the big screen.

At the International
LA PALMA: Iftar buffet from a different country each week; begins in Egypt and goes on to Saudi Arabia, the Emirates and Kuwait. It will be open from 6 pm to 3 am for subour.



Sales blitz

A regional sales blitz and seminar was recently held at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Kuwait. Vice-president for sales and marketing, Stewart Banner, regional district director Michel Karam, Holiday Inn, Kuwait GM Jean Abou Nohra and others attended. Above: some of the participants.

'Hitler Diaries' forger goes into big business

Gallery of fakes for art lovers

By Mark Heinrich

STUTTGART, West Germany. (Reuters): The painting could pass for a Van Gogh masterpiece but a stamp on the back reads "certified fake by Konrad Kujau," — truth in advertising from the man who once forged the Hitler Diaries.

The stamp not only protects Kujau from fraud charges of the kind that landed him in prison for the diaries hoax, but also tickles the fancy of art buffs who have been streaming into the gallery of fakes he opened in Stuttgart last month.

"It's meant to avoid legal problems, but I find some customers want the stamp anyway because they say I'm as well known as the original master," the 50-year-old Kujau said in an interview at the gallery.

Kujau gained world-wide notoriety from his exposure as the forger of Hitler's 'diaries' sold in 1983 to an unwitting German magazine for 9.3 million marks (then \$3.1 million).

Starn, one of West Germany's most respected weeklies, touted the diaries as an unprecedented journalistic coup when it printed the first instalment in April, 1983. But historians soon denounced the diaries as a brazen hoax.

Kujau was convicted of fraud in 1985. During the trial, the judge praised his talents and Kujau scrawled Hitler autographs for spectators.

He was given four years and six months in prison, but was freed in mid-1987 after developing cancer of the larynx.

Hundreds of thousands of marks (dollars) in legal and tax debts forced Kujau to sell property holdings and his cherished collection of German military memorabilia. The new gallery is the latest way for Kujau to make ends meet.

The walls and floor of the tiny, two-room gallery on a quiet Stuttgart street are cluttered with some 100 paintings in the style of Rembrandt, Renoir, Van Gogh, Manet, Chagall, Picasso, Dali, Degas, Miro and Toulouse-Lautrec.

Study

As Kujau was interviewed, customers streamed in and peered gravely at the paintings, some shaking their heads in wonder at Kujau's imitations, which included the forged signatures of the masters.

Many asked Kujau's young assistant for price quotes.

Also displayed for sale were parchment paper imitations of letters by Voltaire, King Louis XIV of France, Karl Marx and Paul von Hindenburg, imperial Germany's venerated field marshal.

In a glass container was the faked Nazi party identity card of Hitler, with the sloping signature, of course.

"I can do Hitler's signature as fast as my own," Kujau said with a typically cheeky grin.



Konrad Kujau, master forger expounds on his painting technique at his newly-opened gallery of fakes.

Kujau paints most of the works at his easel in the upstairs study of his suburban Stuttgart home. Some of the works on exhibit were done in his Hamburg jail cell.

It normally takes him anywhere from two days to a week to produce a good work in the style of a master. A 'Rembrandt' portrait on sale for 35,000 marks (18,500 dollars), however, required 13 months.

Kujau emphasised that none of his works are copies of existing classics but instead original motifs done with the stroke of the master he has painstakingly studied.

"To assimilate a master's style, I first pore through biographies to see what makes them tick," he said.

"If a certain master captivates me, I'll stay up reading until 1:30 in the morning and then start painting. When the morning dawns, the masterpiece is starting to appear on canvas."

"With Van Gogh, I have had dreams of his work, then woken up and jumped out of bed in the middle of the night, looked at the painting I've been working on and found stylistic errors."

Kujau's prices start at 100 marks (\$53). His most expensive sale so far, 1,800 marks (\$952), was for a surrealist "Dali" which he dubbed "Return of the Ice Age."

War makes deep impact on Iraqi artists

BAGHDAD, Iraq. (AP): Murthada Haddad, one of Iraq's emerging sculptors, spent six years fighting the Iranians he and other artists experienced at the front have had a dramatic impact on Iraqi art.

"I saw too many people die in the war and they come out in my work. It was a very, very painful experience," said Haddad, who lost his studio and foundry in the southern port of Basra when it took a direct hit from Iranian shell-fire during fierce assaults on the city.

Nearly 8 months after the

ceasefire, few signs of the conflict disfigure the streets of Baghdad. In the capital's museums, galleries and artists' studios, the scars of battle live on.

Gone are the idyllic landscapes, the bedouins on horseback, the scenes from the marshes and the mountains, all traditional subjects that artists favoured before the war began in September 1980.

In their place are searing sculptures and paintings that reflect the carnage the artists witnessed. Among them:

— Three sculptures by Haddad, displayed at a recent one-man exhibition, showing

small bronze figures sitting twisted and bound, covering their faces.

— A statue commemorating a missile attack designed by Mohammed Ghani, whose whimsical statues inspired by the legend of the 1,001 nights are Baghdad landmarks. A girl in the statue has two shattered stumps for legs.

— A painting entitled "War and Peace" which won plastic surgeon Ali Hussein Bashir the gold medal at the Baghdad international festival, shows a man leaving the cold, metallic bonds of his military uniform to float among the clouds.

"The war turned the work of most Iraqi artists into art that has something to say, not art for decoration," Bashir, 50, said in an interview. "They may use the same style, but the subject has changed."

Painter Shakir Hassan, 64, remembers his first visit to the front after a fierce battle. "When I saw Basra and the front lines, I understood the dramatic results of war," he said.

"When the town itself is burned by bombardment, it means the existence of things is destroyed — not just humans, but walls, paintings as well."

Video sculpture: a new art form

By Erika Kip

COLOGNE. (DaD): A pyramid of 40 TV sets towers up to the ceiling of a large hall while, to the left, 16 TV sets stand alongside each other, overhung by a gigantic screen on which scenes of love and war are wildly painted.

Hair, bones, shoes and tennis racquets are laid out on a steel sheet in front of them. Where are we? At a radio show held in cramped quarters, in a scrap metal disposal facility? No, it is an art exhibition: the first large-scale video sculpture show ever held in Cologne, Federal Republic of Germany.

At four venues in the German art metropolis yet another memorable event in art history is in the making. Forty-five artists are showing work in a new art form.

Their work all deals with the medium of television, relating to it, taking an ironic view of it. It has nothing to do with the conventional concept of art.

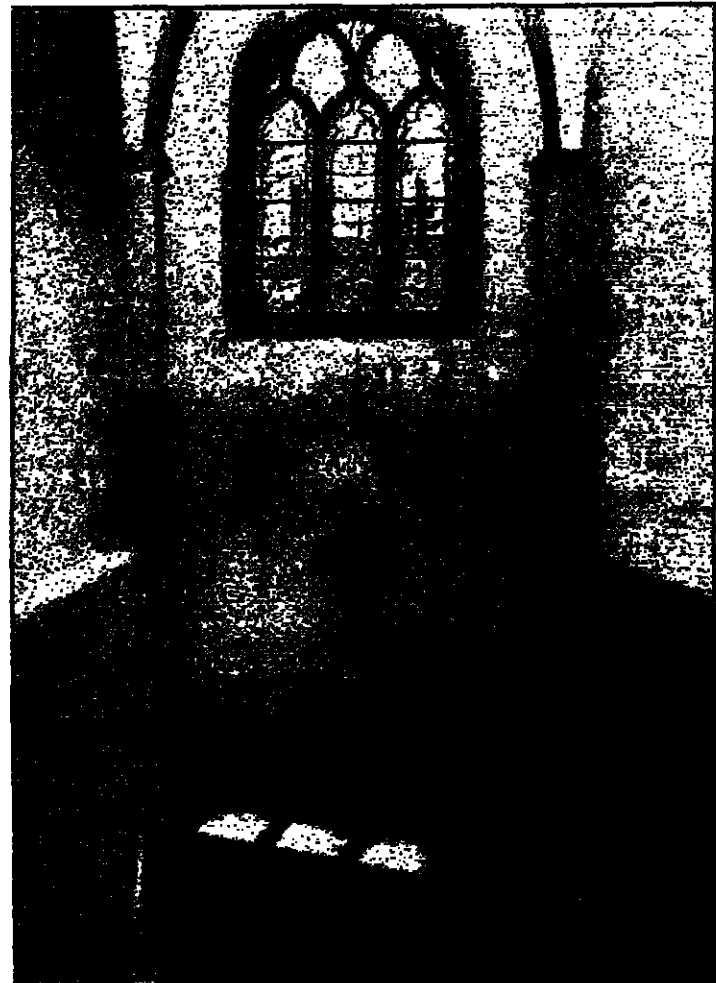
Those who feel sculpture must be cast in bronze and paint must be applied to canvas by brush are in for an enlargement of their world view," says Wulf Herzogenrath, who organised this spectacular to mark the 150th anniversary of the Cologne Kunstverein.

Video art is a young art form, first proclaimed as such by Wolf Vostell, who in 1963 wound barbed wire round a TV set and buried it. That was a happening. The number of approaches to television grew, with video soon to follow.

Viewed at face value, video sculpture consists of TV sets and monitor screens imaginatively integrated by the artist into his everyday life or artistic dream world. "Or-phia III," a video sculpture by Ulrike Rosenbach, the best-known German video artist, can be seen in the mediaeval church of St Peter's. It is a three-part coffin featuring monitors on which a continuous sequence of pictures is screened. Artists relate TV and video to photographs, painting and sculpture.

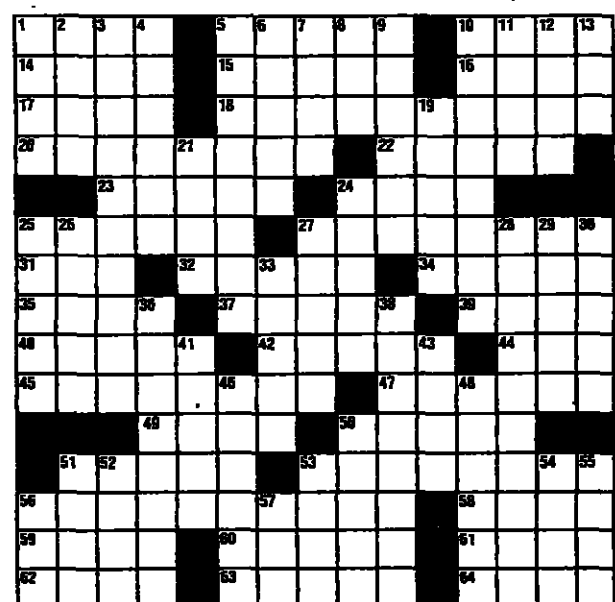
They work with scenery such as stone, sand, feathers and mushrooms. Sound and music are further features. Twenty-five monitor screens arrayed side by side, for instance, convey the impression of a river. A "Swimmer" — the title of this particular work of video sculpture — repeats powerful arm movements to keep the waves at bay, while "The Board Room" by Antonio Montadas, fills an entire room, with the room as art, as an environment.

Video sculpture aims to establish a distance from television and to make matters transparent. It also sets out to entertain. Cameras are often aimed at the onlooker, filming him and projecting him, thereby putting him into the picture. Thus the audience itself adds the finishing touch to the work of art. These are some of the objectives of video sculpture, yet for many it is an intellectual art form they find hard to grasp.



'Or-phia III' is the title of this video sculpture by Ulrike Rosenbach on show at St Peter's Church in Cologne, Federal Republic of Germany. A continuous sequence of pictures is screened on three monitors in an open coffin.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Nemo or Kangaroo; Abbr.
 - USMA frosh
 - Cork Harbour port
 - Commotions
 - Stiff
 - Lincoln and Vigoda
 - Miami's county
 - Preacher of a type
 - Emulated
 - Nautical "stop"
 - TV's Lou Grant
 - Spruce
 - Fabric
 - Diversions
 - Bern's river
 - Autocrats
 - Flavoring for Christmas cookies
 - Fedora part
 - Gives off
 - Being
 - American League MVP: 1983
 - Horn sounds
 - "the ramparts we watched..."
 - Involved
 - Rules
 - Agitate
 - Devoutness
 - Woo
 - Sally Rand specialty
 - Opera text writer
 - Teller of fish stories
 - Siouan tribesman
 - Renter's document
 - Doctrines
 - Hive dwellers
- DOWN**
- Muslim judge
 - Genesis name
 - Heel and toe doctor
 - African fly
 - Mere ostentation
 - Partner of onions
 - Mild oath
 - Storage space
 - Poe and Guest
 - Lotion of a type
 - Sashes for
 - Yum Yum
 - Unexcelled
 - Presidential monogram
 - 1979 Broadway musical hit
 - Dill, old style
 - Savor
 - Guardsmen's number
 - side arm
 - Brother of Moses
 - Meddled
 - Woman hater
 - City on the Ruhr
 - Prophets
 - "Forever —"
 - Winsor novel
 - Bars, in music
 - Dash man
 - Chile saltpetre
 - Future flower
 - Wee
 - Its capital is Rome
 - Outmoded
 - Quote
 - Wind instrument
 - Edict
 - Arrived
 - Gaelic
 - Tennis shot
 - Downing Street number

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

AS OF EMOTE MAMA
LOLA RAVEN AVIDE
ELIS RIANT LODIE
FOOTBALL IRANIS
BATS FRUG
CASABA GUEBALLS
ADELE HASTY HAM
MARL COVEY BABA
UNI ELLIS LASER
SOFTBALL NOSALT
RORY CIRE
ERNANI HANDBALL
LIEU NOOSE AGIO
SEAM ERECT LEOS
ANTIA TODAY LEINT

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K105 ♥J6 ♦KQ10 ♣AQ983
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♦ 1 ♥ 2 ♦ ?
What do you bid now?

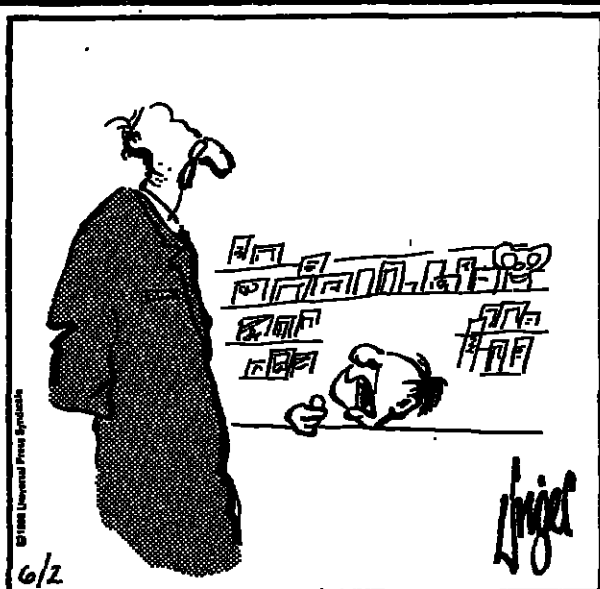
Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ97 ♥KQ6 ♦J8 ♣K1076
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♦ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠97 ♥J652 ♦AQ932 ♣84
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Dbl Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q7 ♥J652 ♦AQJ32 ♣84
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Dbl Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ762 ♥74 ♦865 ♣432
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♥ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♥ Dbl Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK93 ♥Q63 ♦8 ♣AQ762
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ East 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?



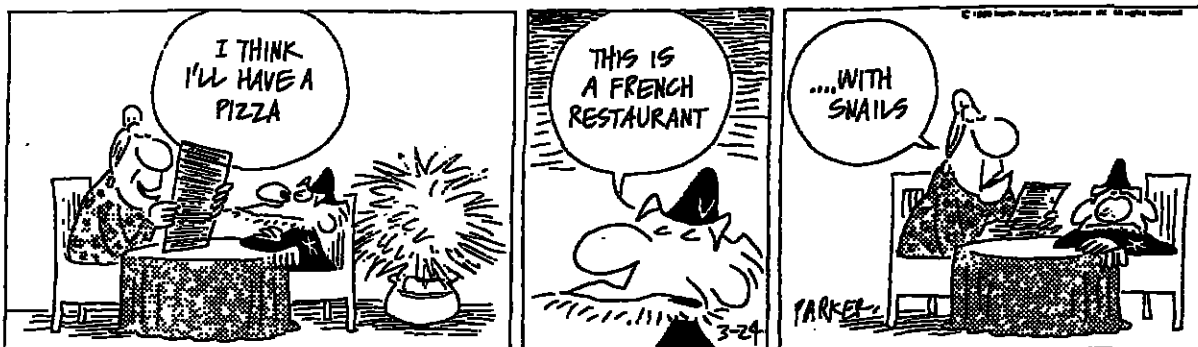
"Got any 'get sick' cards?"

"Idle gossip nothing! I've worked hard on it."

"If this is so good, why isn't it advertised on TV?"

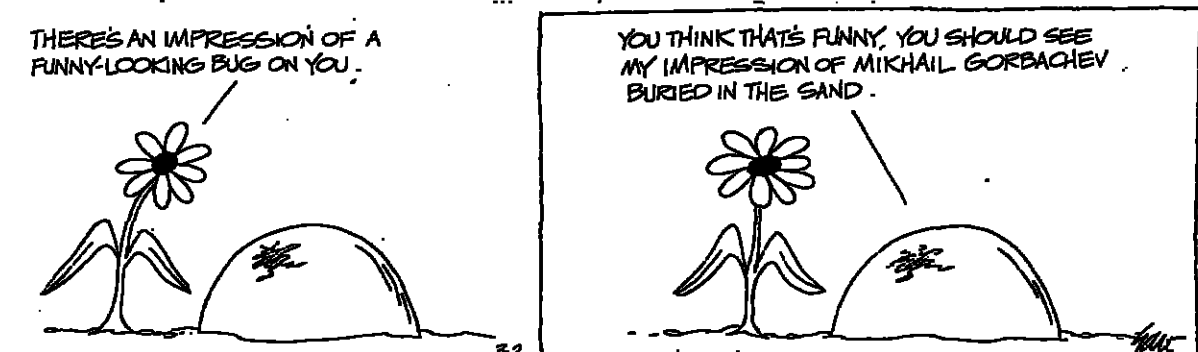
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

The wind is in your sails but make sure you are heading in the right direction. You should not allow yourself to be distracted by secondary matters. Avoid being in too great a hurry. Be magnanimous.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will find it easier to make up your mind. A good opportunity could easily be missed. Do all you can to avoid a confrontation with one of your colleagues at work. Be forgiving.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will be proved right but you must not make the others feel small. Take a little care about making up your mind. Do not choose recklessly. Beware of driving too fast or parking wrongly. Be considerate.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You should not try to have your cake and eat it. You will receive the news you have been waiting for. It will not be quite what you expected, but it could have been worse. Be fair.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

Something you have been learning will begin to click into place. You should try not to get into an argument. You will have something to be pleased about. Be patient.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

You should keep your wits very much about you. Do not allow others to put you off your stride. Try to improve your skills and do not rest on your laurels. Be objective.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

You will get on better with a person with whom you have fallen out. Although you might have a bit of good luck you should not rely upon it. Do not expect something for nothing. Your lucky numbers are 33 and 15. Be thankful.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You should not place too much reliance on gadgets but you will be able to make good use of them. Avoid bearing a grievance if you possibly can. Do not spend too much time just chatting on the phone. Be loyal.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You will be able to make good progress in a field where you have recently lagged behind. You should not insist on being right especially when there is some doubt about whether you are.



Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Not everything will be to your liking, but you will know how to make the best of it. You will have to tread carefully when dealing with someone in a bad mood. There is no time to lose. Be moderate.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

You should take a little longer pondering before making up your mind. However there is no point in dithering or sitting on the fence. Do not take too much for granted. Be thoughtful.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

You will have a lot to do and should not allow yourself to be distracted. Do not do anything that might give offence or be considered rude. Make sure you eat and drink within limits. Be observant.

The Universal American School



Painting faces



Daddy's comfort



Help



Take that!

C'mon everybody it's
Carnival
timeBy Manal Elsheikh
Arab Times staff

AT 11.30 am, on Wednesday the 5th of April, over 1,500 people gathered on the grounds of the Universal American School (UAS) of Kuwait.

The weather was beautiful. The sun, hidden by weak clouds, could not penetrate rays strongly enough to disturb the cool breeze.

The grounds were noisy with people chattering loudly and happily. They were students of all grades, between four and 18 years of age, parents and teachers.

The UAS was holding its annual carnival.

The school's administration, under the careful supervision of Nahida Zikrayan, the school's activities director, organised over 20 games to keep the children, both busy and extremely happy. The games could be roughly divided into three categories: aiming games, water games and miscellaneous games.

The aiming games included ball tosses, shooting at an obstacle (and winning if you shot it), fishing in a barrel, throwing a football into a tyre, dropping a coin into a cup in a barrel full of water and throwing beanbags into loops.

The water games, which were naturally the most popular, included the balloon dunk in which the player's task was to pick a balloon, with his teeth, from a bucket full of water. The dunking booth and the wet sponge, where students got a chance to throw soaking sponges at their friends (?).

The miscellaneous games included a lottery, the unrideable horse (a mechanical horse that no one was able to stay on), Jacob's ladder (the most difficult game in the carnival) and the prison. Students paid to put another person in prison. The victims were then hunted down and placed behind bars. The victims could only get out of prison if she/he was bailed out.

Ghada Al Rishaq, a 16-year-old eleventh grader, spent most of the carnival in prison — and being hunted down. When asked why, she cheerfully answered: "I really don't know, I've been hunted down all day, and people I don't even know want me in!"

Kindergarten children were certainly not forgotten on this wonderful day. Games such as painting T-shirts, play make-up and the classical musical-chairs kept them fully occupied and very happy.

Cuddly teddy bears, dolls, water pistols, toy guns and cakes were some of the grand prizes won by the participants.

Both the school's canteen and a Baskin Robbin's icecream stand provided refreshments for the active students throughout the day.

At about 5 pm, to end the day, a draw on the lottery tickets was carried out. Prizes included a return ticket to Bahrain, and coupons from The Sultan Center, Tiffany and Tomato and various restaurants.

Congratulations to Mohammed Khalaf of the tenth grade who won the return ticket to Bahrain.



Wonder if it'll hit



Watch it!

Computers

How computers work

THERE are two basic types of computer: digital and analogue. Both types use highly complex systems of electrical circuits to carry out complicated calculations or to solve difficult problems. The hybrid is a third type which consists of a combination of the other two.

The digital computer is basically a counting machine. In its simplest form it would be a counting frame with beads. A more complicated form would be a cash register. There are small digital computers able to multiply, divide, subtract and add, all at high speed, which are electrically powered and operated by hand like typewriters. Larger digital computers receive their information or data on punched-cards, magnetic tape or perforated tape. This information is read by a unit called the reader which converts the data into a form usable by the computer.

Analogue computers also use complicated electrical circuits but they are specially designed or programmed to deal with particular problems such as guiding Moon rockets or controlling the movements of trains.

Computers have a memory unit which stores information and provides it whenever it is requested. These memory units consist of magnetic drums, discs or tapes which store the information in the form of electrical impulses. When a computer has solved a problem or finished a complicated sum it gives the answer on a teleprinter.

Computers must therefore be able to accept information, store it and all the intermediate processes and results, and present the final results to the user in an understandable form.

Why computers are necessary in modern war

When weapons were very simple man could use them without the need for any special apparatus. This is no longer the case today when their speed and complexity make automation essential.

Let us take the example of an aerial attack. Two radars follow simultaneously the movements of the enemy supersonic bomber and of the ground-to-air missile launched against it. The signals picked up by the two radars are fed into an electronic computer which works them out and communicates the details of the missile's course to a transmitter which is guiding the missile on to the target.

All this takes place simultaneously, within a split second. How could a man calculate at such speed?

How computers are used in industry

THE electronic computer is used in many fields of activity and is extremely valuable in doing complicated work accurately and quickly. It has removed much of the drudgery from such routine tasks as telephone switchboard operation, the working of lifts, and book-keeping.

How do these wonderful machines work? We can see in the simple example of checking the stocks held by a warehouse.

In largescale industries it costs a great deal of money to keep a large number of goods in store. Nevertheless a company must always know how many goods it has at a given time in case it runs out of any item. So there must always be a reserve level below which stocks must not go. When that level is reached the company orders more goods to be delivered.

One way of keeping a check is to use a punched-card system. Each article which is delivered to the warehouse has its own card punched with the required information which may relate to style, colour, price, size or other relevant details, and this is fed into the computer.

When the article is sold and leaves the warehouse the computer is fed with this information too. At any time the computer can show exactly how many of those articles are in stock and if the stocks have to be replenished. The computer does this job with great speed and accuracy and can give an account of exactly how many articles of many different types are in stock.

The initial effect of computers is as an efficient means of performing complicated or routine tasks. In the long term, however, they will make new and different activities possible. For instance, education and many occupations will be greatly affected as methods of storing and retrieving vast quantities of information are further developed.

The American School Kuwait
Quran competition

THE American School of Kuwait held its annual Quran competition on April 4. Students from grades one through five participated. Due to the high quality of the recitations the judges had a difficult time selecting the winners. All the students participating received certificates and appropriate gifts for their hard work.

The top three winners for each grade were:
GR1: Bassam Abu Leb-

dah, Ahmad Al Ghusein, Samer Arafah.

GR2: Basel Zalaito, Abdullah Al Mutawa, Mayada Kheriba.

GR3: Mohammed Hadidi, Rawan Zalaito, Rawda Allam.

GR4: Rehab Allam, Eyad Hamada, Adham Nassef.

GR5: Ola Alayyan, Shourouk Raghieb, Ranya Abdel Baki.

Congratulations!



Grade 3 winners



Grade 5 winners

Dear Junior Readers

Today is the sixth day of the holy month of Ramadan. You will all probably have noticed the annual changes seen by this holy month. Shops open until midnight, streets are silent at dusk and television programmes are entirely different.

To all of you who do not fast, always keep in mind that a lot of the people in the Arab world are fasting and be careful not to eat in public places.

To all of you who are fasting: well done! Ramadan is a sacred month. All the good you do this month is counted as a multiple of that you do

every other month of the year.

This is why many Muslims pray many more prayers and pay their zakat during this month.

Fasting should not be broken by too many glasses of water. This is very unhealthy, but also very tempting after a long hot day. Try to drink just one glass of moderately cold water — not too cold, followed by some food (or a date).

Keep it up, you've only got three more weeks.

Manal



Happy birthday

Fardous Habib celebrates her 8th birthday on the 12th. Best wishes from family and friends.

Young poet

If I had \$1,000,000

If I had a million dollars to wrap up in the bank, I'd buy some things for everyone and wait for them to thank!

I'd give some money for a charitable cause, and buy kids more presents than Santa Claus!

I'd buy my mum a car my dad an aeroplane, But the reason why I would I never could explain!

If I had a million dollars I would go wild, I'd buy my brother a golf cart and a cruise down the Nile.

Dana Tugan
American School of Kuwait
Grade 5

Ha! Ha!

What job did the lady ghost have on an aeroplane?
An air ghostess.Where do ghosts like to swim?
In the Dead Sea.Why was the Mummy Ghost worried about Baby Ghost?
'Cos he was always in good spirits.What is the ghosts' favourite Western Town?
Tombstone.What do ghosts like to ride on at the fair-ground?
The Roller Ghoster.Where do ghosts live?
In a far distant territory.Why did the ghost go to the astrologer?
'Cos he wanted to see his horoscope.

Amazing facts

Sir Robert Walpole became Britain's first Prime Minister in 1721.

The first life on earth appeared 2000 million years ago.

The burning of heretics was first made legal in England in 1401.

The last glaciers disappeared from Britain in 8000 BC.

The French scientist Rene de Reaumur first got the idea of making paper from wood in the early 1700s, after watching wasps eating wood, adding their saliva and then spreading it around their nests to dry.

The first person to swim the English Channel was a Merchant Navy captain called Mathew Webb. He swam the 38 kms in 21 hours, in 1875.

When X-rays were first discovered, Lord Kelvin said they "will prove to be a hoax."

The Encyclopaedia Britannica once calculated that the last year in which the sun will shine will be the year 10,000,000,000.

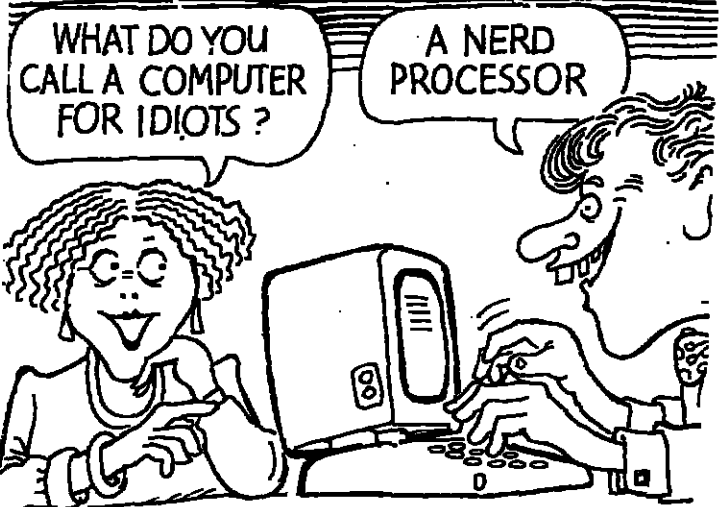
When television was first invented, a writer in the Listener said "It won't last, it's a flash in the pan."

THINK HARD

DEMURE
EARNESTLY
GRAVE
GIBB
LONG FACE
MOODMOPE
SEDATE
SOBER
SOLID
SOMBER
STRAIGHT (acc.)
THOUGHTFUL

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Clue: Grumpy person - obviously - on taking 19 letters



Colouring time



Hilton Head women's tennis tournament

Graf routs Zvereva in final

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C., April 10, (Reuters): Top-seeded Stefli Graf of West Germany routed fourth-seeded Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union 6-1 6-1 yesterday for her third win in a \$300,000 Hilton Head women's tennis tournament.

Graf needed just 55 minutes to dispatch Zvereva and win her 27th consecutive match this year in the tournament where she captured her first professional title three years ago.

Zvereva, ranked ninth in the world, had upset second-seeded Martina Navratilova of the United States in the semifinals to avert a showdown between Graf and Navratilova, listed first and second in the world respectively.

Graf, who has won 54 of 55 sets played in 1989, said she never felt threatened by Zvereva, whom she has beaten easily in all three of their previous meetings. The last was a 6-0 6-0 drubbing in last year's French Open final.

"She can't really put me under pressure. She tried to hit to my backhand, but that didn't bother

me. She has much better shots than a year ago, but I feel that I am always in control against her," said Graf who earned \$60,000 for the win.

The West German dominated the final by controlling the baseline rallies with her powerful forehand and sliced backhand and pressured Zvereva's serve by taking the ball on the rise, putting the Soviet on the defensive.

Zvereva did not win her serve in the first set in three tries, but she finally held in the first game of the second set with a pair of service winners.

Graf then won her own serve for 1-1 and took control of the second set in the third game when she broke Zvereva after four deuces for 2-1, sweeping the last five games.

Zvereva said Graf was still too strong an opponent.

"If you play safely and just put the ball in the court, you are going to die against her. It's really hard for me to play against her mentally because she pushes and pushes," Zvereva said.



Stefli Graf unleashes a forehand in the second set. (Reuters wirephoto)

Waldner and Qiao win tennis singles titles

DORTMUND, West Germany, April 10, (AP): Jan-Ove Waldner beat fellow Swede Jorgen Persson, 21-17, 21-18, 20-22, 18-21, 21-10, to win the men's singles title yesterday at the World Table Tennis Championships.

Waldner was the first European to win the title since 1975.

Earlier, Qiao Hong of China defeated Li Bun Hui of North Korea, 21-15, 21-12, 11-21, 21-16, for the women's title. Hong also teamed with Deng Yaping to win the women's doubles Saturday night.

In the men's event, it was the first time in 14 years that an Asian did not win the crown. Istvan Jonyer of Hungary won in 1975.

The last time two Europeans played for the title was in 1953.

Waldner, ranked No. 2 in the world, and Persson, No. 6, were both members of the Swedish squad that ended China's four-time hold on the team title.

Overall, China won the three women's championships but failed to match its 1987 output when it won six of seven events.

This year Sweden took two of the seven titles with South Korea and West Germany taking one each.

In women's singles, Qiao filled in the void for China when Olympic gold medalist Chen Jing lost to Li in the semifinals and 1987 world champion He Zhili was not on the Chinese squad, although she is still ranked No. 1 in the world.

It was the sixth straight women's singles crown for the Chinese.

In the mixed doubles final, Yoo Nam Kyu and Hyun Jung Hwa of South Korea, defeated Yugoslavia's Gordana Perkunic and Zoran Kalinic, 21-7, 21-13.

IOC praises Chinese decision to welcome Taiwan athletes

DORTMUND, West Germany, April 10, (AP): The president of the International Olympic Committee yesterday said he welcomed a decision allowing athletes from Taiwan to compete in China.

The agreement was signed last week in Hong Kong.

"Now is the beginning of direct sports relations between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China," Juan Antonio Samaranch said. "We are very, very happy about this. We fought for a long time for this."

"We can now say that the sports relations between China and Taiwan are normal," he added.

Under the agreement, Taiwan will compete in 10 other international sports events this year and the Asian Games in 1990 in Beijing, officials said.

Recognized
The athletes will compete under the name of "Chinese Taipei," which was not formally recognized by mainland China over the past four decades.

The first competition will be the Asian Junior gymnastics championships April 21.

The IOC president, however, said he could not attend the gymnastics championships because he will be at another meeting of the IOC sports federations. But he said he will be represented by the members of the Chinese and Taiwan members of the IOC.

Samaranch is visiting the finals of the World Table Tennis Championships, a sport that was included for the first time at the Olympics last year in Seoul, South Korea.

Sunday Silence wins derby

ARCADIA, California, April 10, (AP): Sunday Silence blew past previously unbeaten Houston entering the final turn Saturday and then pulled away to win the half-million-dollar Santa Anita Derby by a whopping 11 lengths over Flying Continental.

Houston, the 9-10 favorite, wound up a badly beaten fifth, 16 3/4 lengths off the pace.

"He didn't run his race at all," Lukas said of Houston, who had won his three previous races but had never gone further than seven furlongs. "It wasn't his race. I don't have the answer. It just wasn't Houston."

Lukas, who said before the race that Houston was as good as he's ever trained at this stage of the colt's career, said he might race the son of 1977 triple crown

winner Seattle Slew before the Kentucky Derby.

No decision has been made as to whether Houston will go in the derby, which is slated May 6, Lukas said.

"He was running very good down the backstretch, rating nice and pricking his ears," said jockey Laffit Pincay, who rode Houston. "All of a sudden, he stopped. I have no idea why. It could have been the heat or the first time going this far."

The victory for Sunday Silence, the fourth in six lifetime starts for the Kentucky-bred son of Halo, was worth \$275,000, raising his career earnings to \$406,100.

The winning time of 1:47 3/5 on a fast track was just three-fifths of a second off the stakes

record set by Lucky Debonair in 1965 and matched by Sham eight years later. Lucky Debonair went on to win the Kentucky Derby.

Sunday Silence's winning margin was the largest ever in the race for 3-year-olds. The previous best was eight lengths by Majestic Prince in 1969 and affirmed in 1978. Both horses went on to win at Churchill Downs.

Trainer Charlie Whittingham, who turns 76 next Thursday, won the Santa Anita Derby for only the second time. He saddled Temperate Sil two years ago, but the colt didn't run in the Kentucky Derby due to illness.

"Now we've got enough earned to go to Kentucky. We'll train him up to the Kentucky Derby," Whittingham said.



Part of 40 strong field jump the notorious Becker's Brook fence in Grand National steeplechase race on Sunday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Track and field is dirty: Harvey Glance

TORONTO, April 10, (AP): Track and field is dirty, says Harvey Glance, and Canada's way is the only way to clean it up: force the sport to air its laundry in public.

Glance, an Olympic gold medalist and spokesman for thousands of US athletes, said yesterday the Ben Johnson scandal and Canada's federal inquiry into it spawned the forced most constructive action ever against cheating in sport.

But he said from Phoenix, Arizona, that he doubts track and field will ever be drug-free because the stakes are too high.

"Money corrupts," said Glance, chairman of the Athletics Advisory Committee of the Athletics Congress, which governs US track and field. "That's real, real evident right now."

Johnson was stripped of an Olympic gold medal in the 100 metres last fall after failing a dope test in Seoul. The judicial probe of drug abuse in sport began Jan 11 and continues today with testimony from Johnson's friend and financial advisor, Ross Ebert.

Subpoena
Threatened by subpoena, seven top Canadian athletes have acknowledged under oath they used banned drugs. A US Senate investigation has elicited similar admissions and allegations from some of their American counterparts.

Glance, a three-time Olympian and gold medalist in the 1,600-metre relay at the 1976 Games in Montreal, said anyone associated with the sport knew the extent of the problem but refused to acknowledge it. Now they have no choice.

Meanwhile, Dr Robert Kerr of California, who claims to have provided banned drugs to athletes from more than 20 countries — including a dozen medal winners at the 1984 Los Angeles games — is to appear in Toronto, probably next month.

Records
"I really don't think that every athlete who ever set a world record was on drugs," said the 32-year-old Glance. "But there are a lot of records which are way out of reach for a natural athlete."

The former runner said drugs really took hold among track athletes after the West bloc boycotted the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

"It was the last gasp for a lot of athletes and I'm sure they reverted to drugs" to prolong their career so they could participate at Los Angeles four years later, he said. "From that point on, it really got scary."

Glance, ranked among the top 10 in the world for eight years and still competing, says he never used drugs. He missed making the last US Olympic team by a hundredth of a second.

St. Louis Cardinals lead past Philadelphia Phillies in baseball

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania, April 10, (AP): Pedro Guerrero batted .286 last season. With runners in scoring position, he hit .371.

"I just seem to hit better in that situation. I guess I like the pressure," he said yesterday after he homered and drove in four runs to lead the St. Louis Cardinals past the Philadelphia Phillies 15-3.

Guerrero has 10 RBIs in four games. He said he couldn't recall a better start in his nine-year career.

"I guess I'm just hitting at the right time," said Guerrero, who is 5-for-17.

Jose Oquendo had three hits and drove in four runs. St. Louis batters had eight extra-base hits, including seven doubles, and 19 hits in all. Terry Pendleton and Vince Coleman also had three hits each.

Mets 2, Expos 1
In Montreal, Kevin Elster doubled home the tie-breaking run with one out in the ninth inning and Dwight Gooden allowed three hits over eight.

Sacrificed
Andy McGaffigan, 1-1, who had just entered the game in relief of Dennis Martinez, walked Gary Carter to open the ninth. Len Dykstra, pinch running for Carter, was sacrificed to second by Dave Magadan. Elster then scored Dykstra with a drive into centre field.

Leconte and Noah beaten in Davis Cup match

Agassi and McEnroe clinch win for US

SAN DIEGO, April 10, (Agencies): John McEnroe and Andre Agassi of the United States finished a 5-0 drubbing of France in their world group Davis Cup quarterfinal match with straight-set victories yesterday.

McEnroe, extending his current winning streak to 10 matches, beat Henri Leconte 6-3 6-1. "I fell into the groove right away. Two minutes into the match I felt into it," McEnroe said.

Agassi scored a 6-3 7-6 (9-7) win over Yannick Noah, using powerful passing shots to frustrate the net-rushing Frenchman.

In the five matches, the United States won 13 of 15 sets. Not one match went to the five-set limit.

"We came out and produced," McEnroe said.

The US team will go to West Germany for a July 21-23 semifinal showdown against the defending champions. The team is expected to be the same as this one — Agassi, McEnroe, Ken Flach and Robert Seguso.

Favourites

"We should go in as favourites," McEnroe said. "We should at least win against the second singles match and we should be the favourites in doubles."

Both final day singles matches at the San Diego Sports Arena yesterday were reduced to the best of three sets by mutual consent of the team captains after the United States had taken an insurmountable 3-0 lead after Saturday's doubles.

McEnroe has been displaying form close to that which he exhibited while dominating tennis from 1981-84. He has not lost since Boris Becker of West Germany beat him in the Milan semifinals in February, and his won-lost singles record for this year is 17-2.

"What I liked was that I played well, like I was playing when I stopped playing," said McEn-



Boris Becker reacts a Davis Cup victory against Milan Srejber of Czechoslovakia on Sunday.

roe, currently ranked sixth in the world. "That's important because you don't want to waste a week or two getting back into the form when you return."

In Prague, Czechoslovakia, Boris Becker beat Milan Srejber 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 yesterday to give defending champion West Germany a 3-2 victory over Czechoslovakia in their Davis Cup quarterfinal.

Czechoslovakia had taken a 2-1 lead Saturday after Srejber and Peter Korda beat Becker and Eric Jelen in doubles. But Carl-

Uwe Steeb evened the score by beating Karel Novacek 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 in yesterday's first match and Becker clinched the victory by overpowering Srejber.

Doublefaulted

"It's very difficult to win against Czechoslovakia in Prague before 12,000 of their supporters," West German captain Nikki Pilic said. "We didn't feel too well after losing the doubles and we knew we would have to show yesterday how strong mentally we are."

Aintree Grand National Horse deaths to be raised in Parliament

LIVERPOOL, England, April 10, (Reuters): The deaths of two more horses in the Aintree Grand National is to be raised in the British Parliament today.

The country's leading animal welfare body is also to press the sport's ruling body to make the notorious Becker's Brook safer. Brown Trix and Seandem both had to be destroyed after falling at Becker's.

Yesterday Tony Banks, a member of the opposition Labour Party, said he would be seeking to ban the race unless animal welfare groups approved safety standards at the course.

After the deaths angry animal lovers rang the Royal Society for the Protection of Animals (RSPCA) who are to press the jockey club to alter Becker's.

Twelve horses have now been killed in the National in the last 20 years, half of them at Becker's.

A motion from Banks to be presented today says: "This House (of Commons) is appalled at the death of two horses in the 1989 Grand National at Aintree, recognises the popularity of the Grand National, but insists that the dangers faced by both riders and horses are wholly unacceptable."

"It calls for the course to be subject in future to approval by a consortium of animal welfare groups and in the absence of such approval demands that the Grand National be banned."

Toby Balding, who won Saturday's race with 28-1 chance Little Polveir, also trained Brown Trix.

He said: "There was so much water in there it was a job to keep the horse's head above it."

Blame
"You can't blame Liverpool. The horse landed steep, but I think the ditch should be brought back and the ground levelled off on the landing side so that horses can't fall back in."

On Saturday the millions watching on television were spared the desperate struggle to pull Brown Trix and Seandem out of the brook.

Brown Trix was saved from drowning when a man held his head above the water for several minutes.

Both horses were finally pulled clear with the help of ropes. Seandem had to be destroyed where he was. Brown Trix appeared to have survived the ordeal but then he, too, had to be destroyed.

Although the fence at Becker's is only 1.6 metres high on the take-off side, modest by Aintree standards, the drop on the other side is nearly two metres and the ground slopes upwards.

After the death of Dark Ivy in 1987 there were calls for Becker's to be made easier. But they were rejected.

RSPCA superintendent Bernard Donigan, supervising at his 19th National on Saturday, called for the number of runners to be cut from 40 to 30, a minimum qualifying level and a safer Becker's.

Rolled
He said: "The horses both rolled back into the brook after falling. If the ground didn't slope, they wouldn't do that, and flattening the slope would take some of the hazard away from the fence."

"The jockey club say that levelling out Becker's would spoil the character of the race, but its character is so well established that modifications of this sort wouldn't have any effect at all."

"It might even improve matters by enhancing the reputation of the jockey club in the eyes of the public."

Trojanos wins second annual horse race

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, April 10, (AP): Heavily favoured Trojanos came from the middle of the pack on the final turn and easily won the second annual Trump Cup horse race yesterday.

The race was sponsored by American billionaire Donald Trump. The \$100,000 prize was the largest offered in Brazilian history.

Trojanos, ridden by 19-year-old jockey Carlos Geovani Lavor, was near the middle of the field of sixteen horses and one mare for most of the race.

On the final stretch of the 2,400 metres (2,624-yard) grass track, though, the horse bolted from the pack and coasted to an easy victory.

In second place was 6-year-old Bat Masterson, the oldest horse in the race.

The third place finisher was Meu Gaucho.

The race, attended by more than 20,000 spectators, brought together 17 of the best horses in the country.

Trojanos is now an automatic entry in a race Trump is planning to hold in Atlantic City next year that race will carry a prize of \$5 million, according to press reports.

Ireland win America's international road relay

NEW YORK, April 10, (AP): Ireland, with a brilliant anchor leg by John Doherty, won the America's Ekiden International Road Relay yesterday for the second consecutive year, beating a determined US squad.

Doherty, the Irish 5,000-metre champion, ran the final leg of 6.2 miles (10 kms) in 27 minutes, 50 seconds, fastest in the field of eight national teams, plus teams from throughout the United States.

That enabled Doherty to overcome a 7-second lead that Keith Brantly had given the US team after the fourth of the five relay legs.

When Doherty crossed the finish line in rain-soaked Central Park, he was 24 seconds ahead of Pat Porter, the seven-time US cross-country champion.

The Irish team completed the marathon course in 1:58:20.

The US finished second for the second year straight, clocking 1:58:44.

Britain was third in 1:59:04, and Mexico, with Arturo Barrios running the second-fastest anchor leg (27:59), placed fourth in 2:01:02.

They were followed by Japan (2:02:10), Kenya (2:03:33), the Soviet Union (2:03:49) and Italy (2:04:51).

The United States earned some measure of revenge against the Irish in a 5-km (3.1-mile) race for alternates, with American Dirk Lakeman winning in 23:28, two seconds ahead of Ireland's Roy Dooney.

The winning team divided \$20,000. The US team split \$15,000 and the Britons \$10,000 from the total purse of \$200,300.

The race passed such New York sites as the United Nations, Times Square and Wall Street.

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Marshall breaks Biggs' Test wicket record

West Indies lead in first innings

BRIDGETOWN, April 10, (Reuters): Malcolm Marshall overtook Lance Gibbs as the highest West Indies wicket-taker in Tests and triggered a collapse in the Indian second innings on the third day of the second cricket Test yesterday.

Paceman Marshall claimed three for 13 to hoist his Test wicket tally to 311, two more than the haul of Gibbs which had stood as the record for the past 13 years.

At stumps, India were in serious danger of defeat having lost six second innings wickets for 81 after West Indies had gained a first innings lead of 56.

West Indies were all out for 377, with Richie Richardson scoring a fine 93.

Responsible

Marshall was primarily responsible for the Indian collapse. Navjot Singh became his record-equaling 30th Test victim in the bowler's second over when Gus Logie took a magnificent reflex catch with his right hand at short leg.

But the real damage was done when he took two for eight in his second spell of eight overs, having both Mohammed Azharuddin and Kapil Dev caught behind by Jeff Dujon off leg-cutters to reduce the Indians to 63 for six.

Between those two dismissals, Curtly Ambrose took the important wicket of first innings century-maker Sanjay Manjrekar, caught off bat and pad by the alert Logie.

India got off to a disastrous start, losing their first three wickets for only 32 in 23 overs.

Arun Lal, who has failed to pass 50 on the tour, survived till the 16th over before he tried to force Courtney Walsh, giving a thick outside edge to Richardson at third slip, who parried the ball to Des Haynes in the gully.

Movement

Ian Bishop, coming on second change, got enough movement to persuade Viv Richards to give him four slips and a gully and had Dilip Vengsarkar caught off an edge by Dujon from a perfect leg-cutter.

Earlier West Indies, 246 for five overnight, had regained the initiative thanks to a stand of 79



Marshall: claims 311 Test wickets

in 32 overs between Richardson and Dujon and an aggressive unbeaten 40 by Marshall.

Dujon and Richardson were dismissed in successive overs

either side of lunch. Dujon on the last ball before lunch for 33 when he was undone by some extra turn and bounce from Ravi Shastri as he attempted to cut and

gave a catch off the top edge to Sanjay Manjrekar at point.

Richardson fell seven short of what would have been his third hundred in successive Tests, removed in identical fashion to his dismissal in the first Test by the same bowler, Arshad Ayub.

Hit

Advancing down the wicket Richardson drove Ayub straight to Sidhu at mid-wicket. In all he faced 232 balls and hit eight fours in his 312-minute stay.

Marshall received little help from the tail but attacked the spinners, hitting both Ayub and Shastri for six, and then gave Kapil Dev some punishment after he had taken the second new ball. He hit four fours in his hour-long stay.

Shastri took his fourth wicket when he had Curtly Ambrose caught at slip by Kapil, who then had Ian Bishop lbw and bowled Courtney Walsh in successive balls.

Scoreboard

India first innings 321 (S. Manjrekar 108, M. Azharuddin 61, L. Bishop six for 87)
WEST INDIES first innings (over-
night 246 for five)
G. Greenidge c Hirwani b C. Shastri 117
D. Haynes c Manjrekar b Shastri 27
R. Richardson c Sidhu b Ayub 93
K. Arthurton b Hirwani 0
V. Richards c sub b Hirwani 1
A. Logie c Manjrekar b Shastri 26
J. Dujon c Manjrekar b Shastri 33
M. Marshall not out 40
C. Ambrose c Kapil Dev b Shastri 3
I. Bishop lbw b Kapil Dev 8
C. Walsh b Kapil Dev 0
Extras (lb-7 nb-22) 29
Total 377

Fall of wickets: 1-84 2-201 3-281 4-203 5-246 6-325 7-325 8-354 9-377

Bowling: Kapil Dev 24.5-3-68-2, C. Shastri 18-1-86-1, Ayub 17-1-55-1, Shastri 28-7-78-4, Hirwani 24-1-83-2

INDIA second innings
N. Sidhu c Logie b Marshall 0
Arun Lal c Haynes b Walsh 15
A. Shastri not out 17
D. Vengsarkar c Dujon b Bishop 6
M. Azharuddin c Dujon b Marshall 14
S. Manjrekar c Logie b Ambrose 3
Kapil Dev c Dujon b Marshall 14
K. More not out 1
Extras (b-4 nb-7) 11
Total (for six wickets) 81

Fall of wickets: 1-0 2-23 3-32 4-53 5-62 6-63

Bowling: Marshall 13-5-13-3, Ambrose 11-2-31-1, Bishop 10-3-23-1, Walsh 10-5-10-1.

First major victory since 1980

Forest beat Luton to win League Cup

LONDON, April 10, (Reuters): Nottingham Forest collected their first major trophy since winning the European Cup in 1980 when they came from behind to beat holders Luton 3-1 in the English League Cup final yesterday.

Two second half goals from manager Brian Clough's son Nigel, one a penalty, and one from England midfielder Neil Webb ended Luton's hopes after Mick Harford had put them in front in the opening period.

Upset

Luton, threatened by relegation from the First Division after a run of eight games without a win, promised to upset the form book with a bold first half performance on a perfect spring afternoon at Wembley.

But once Forest, fourth in the First Division and due to face Liverpool in next week's FA Cup semifinals, raised their game, Luton were unable to respond as they did to beat Arsenal a year ago.

Luton were the first to settle with Danny Wilson having a volley deflected wide and Ashley Grimes a drive pushed wide by Forest goalkeeper Steve Sutton. Little was seen of Forest's much admired midfield pairing of Webb and fellow-England international Steve Hodge as Luton's Ricky Hill and David Preece took control.

And it was no surprise when Luton went ahead after 35 minutes. A corner from Preece was half cleared by Lee Chapman and from Wilson's angled cross Harford headed firmly passed Sutton.

Splendid

The goal forced Forest to raise their game and after the interval Webb, Clough and Hodge took over with some splendid passing movements as they went in search of an equaliser.

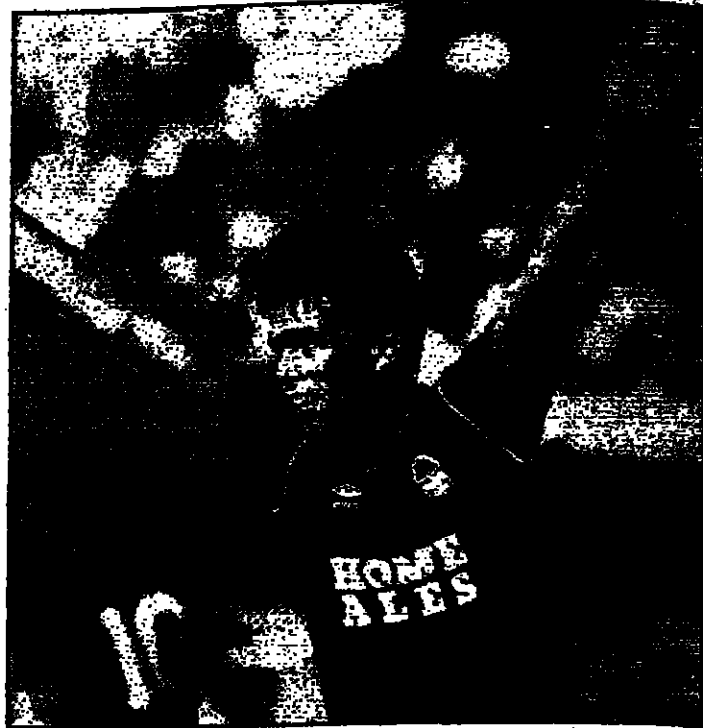
It finally came after 54 minutes when Luton goalkeeper Les Sealey rushed from his goal and unnecessarily brought down Hodge and Clough scored from the resulting spot kick.

Forest went ahead for the first time after 68 minutes when, following a spell of Luton pressure, Clough robbed Northern Ireland international winger Kingsley Black and sent Tommy Gaynor away on the right. When his cross arrived in the middle, Webb was unmarked in space to convert the chance comfortably.

Wasted

Luton attempted to claw their way back and Black wasted one chance from a glorious pass by Harford before Forest completed the scoring after 76 minutes.

Again Gaynor was the provider with a run on the right and his pass inside left Clough



Neil Webb

ample time and room to pick his spot from the edge of the box.

Teams:

LUTON: Les Sealey, Tim Breacker, Ashley Grimes (Darron McDonough 76th minute), David Preece, Steve Foster, David Beaumont, Danny Wilson, Roy Wegerle, Mick Har-

ford, Ricky Hill, Kingsley Black. NOTTINGHAM FOREST: Steve Sutton, Brian Laws, Stuart Pearce, Des Walker, Terry Wilson, Steve Hodge, Tommy Gaynor, Neil Webb, Nigel Clough, Lee Chapman, Gary Parker. Referee: Roger Millard

European soccer

Internazionale march towards League title

ROME, April 10, (Reuters): Internazionale Milan coach Giovanni Trappatoni was showered with praise yesterday after his team's convincing 2-1 win at Cesena lifted them seven points clear of nearest rivals Napoli at the top of the Italian First Division.

But Trappatoni, wearing the customary haunted look of Italian coaches, firmly declined invitations to relax and consider the prospects of celebrating Inter's first championship win since 1980.

"Some of Cesena's players congratulated me, saying that at times they felt unable to do any-

thing against our play," he said after goals from Alessandro Bianchi and Nicola Berti had carried their points tally to a record 42 from 24 games.

"But am I enjoying myself in this situation? Really I'm suffering terribly... I'll enjoy myself when we've won this title."

Having suffered only one League defeat this season, Inter are clear favourites to succeed city rivals and European Cup semifinalists AC Milan as champions.

With 10 games to go, only a total loss of form could cost them the title, particularly as Napoli seem to rely so heavily on the

services of their often injured Argentine captain Diego Maradona for inspiration.

Without him, they were held 0-0 at the San Siro on Sunday by a fatigued AC Milan team whose president Silvio Berlusconi admitted were concentrating solely on winning the European Cup.

"The European Cup is our only objective. We can't do anything else at this stage in the season," he said after a result which left them 11 points behind Inter.

In Spain, Real Madrid shook off their European Cup hangover by thrashing lowly Murcia 3-0 to equal the club record of 27 consecutive unbeaten League games and move four points clear of Barcelona.

For Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker it was a welcome return to routine after Real's disappointing 1-1 home draw last week with AC Milan in the European Cup semifinal first leg.

Star striker Emilio Butragueno was absent with influenza, but Real, with Mexican Hugo Sanchez notching his 20th goal of the season, adapted easily.

Barcelona fell a point further behind when they were held 0-0 by a Zaragoza side reduced to 10 men for most of the match.

In France, title-chasing Paris St Germain were humiliated 4-0 at home in a French Cup third round first leg game by mid-table Second Division side Orleans.

PSG will have little time to shake off the trauma of their unexpected lapse. On Wednesday they visit lowly Strasbourg in a League game they badly need

to win to keep in touch with leaders Marseille, who receive reigning champions Monaco tomorrow.

Orleans, who reached the 1980 Cup final as a Second Division team but lost 3-1 to Monaco, completely outplayed a jaded Paris side. The result equalled the heaviest defeat at the Parc des Princes in the club's history.

Paris keeper Joel Bats, who handed Orleans their second goal when he lost the ball while attempting to dribble past an opponent well outside the penalty area, said: "It's the kind of defeat which happens from time to time in a career. There's no explanation. Once we went 2-0 down we stopped believing in ourselves. We were never in the match."

In West Germany, leaders Bayern Munich were held 0-0 by Werder Bremen, their third consecutive disappointing result in eight days. Bayern lost their unbeaten League record in Hamburg last week and their UEFA Cup semifinal first leg against Napoli on Wednesday.

But trainer Jupp Heynckes said he was not worried his team has lost their momentum.

Nearest challengers Cologne were held to a 2-2 draw by Kaiserslautern. Bayern stay top, three points ahead with 37 points from 25 games.

In the Netherlands, champions PSV's lead was cut to one point after an uninspiring 1-1 draw with FC Twente.

The European Cup holders' lead has been reduced from eight points in recent weeks as Ajax have hit form and raised a strong challenge for the title.

Canada win skating titles

SOLIHULL, England, April 10, (AP): Michel Daignault upstaged hometown favourite Wilf O'Reilly in the men's event and Sylvie Daigle captured the women's crown as Canada won both titles in the world short track speed skating Championships yesterday.

Daignault, who also shared the title two years ago in Montreal, won the 1,500- and 3,000-metre finals and wound up second in the 500 metre to edge South Korean Kim Ki Hoon into second place overall. O'Reilly finished fifth.

To complete Canada's triumph, Daigle took the

women's overall title for the fourth time, having first won it 10 years ago in Quebec.

While Canada celebrated, there was gloom in the British camp.

O'Reilly, skating on his home ice and a solid favourite having won last year's Olympic demonstration event in Calgary, disappointed his partisan fans by managing only second place in the 1,000 metres.

As Daignault, whose brother Guy won world titles in 1982 and 1984, toasted his family's latest triumph, O'Reilly crossed the 3,000-metre finish line in last place.

Assaf clinches double win



Assaf: golf victory

ADNAN Assaf, the muscular man of golf, won both the best gross of the day and the Division 'A' medal at the Hunting & Equestrian Golf Club last Friday. With a fine display of long drives and precision iron play, Assaf (6) was three strokes away from a par round, which would have given him the course record at gross 71. However, with five birdies under his belt Assaf scored two double bogies on the last two holes to card a gross 74 which was the lowest of the day.

With net 68 Assaf won the Division 'A' medal on a count back from H.S. Shim (14) who also carded 68. Stephen Watters (9) was third with 71.

In Division 'B', H.S. Lee (19) carded 65 to win the medal with the lowest net of the day from fellow Korean K.J. Lee (17) with 67 and R.K. Sethi (15) who was third with 69.

Kajsa Hersted (27) won Division 'C' medal with 73 from Valentina Hedenstroem (26) who had 78.

In side competition C.K. Lim drove the ball four feet from the pin on the difficult par three eighth hole to win nearest to the pin contest.

While the ever consistent Deirdre Brero produced the longest drive of the day on the par four fourteenth to win the ladies contest.

H.S. Shim had an enormous drive of over 350 yards on the par four fourth to win the longest drive contest for men.

Faldo wins Masters golf tournament by playoff

AUGUSTA, GA., April 10, (Reuters): Nick Faldo of Britain won the 1989 Masters tournament when he sank a long birdie putt on the second hole of a playoff with American Scott Hoch.

The stirring, sudden-death victory gave the 1987 British Open champion his second 'major' championship and helped ease the memory of last year's US Open, which he lost in an 18-hole playoff with Curtis Strange.

Second

It was the second time in three years that the Masters was decided on the second hole of a playoff. Larry Mize won the 1987 title on the same hole, the 11th, when he chipped in against Greg Norman.

Faldo, who won \$200,000 and the Masters famed green jacket, and Hoch both finished the regulation 72 holes tied at 283, five-under par for four rounds over the Augusta National Golf Course.

Both players bogeyed the first extra hole, the 10th, a 485-yard par four with a treacherous putting surface. It was there that Seve Ballesteros of Spain three-putted in 1987 to drop out of the playoff with Mize and Norman.

Faldo put his approach shot in a greenside bunker, blasted well short of the hole and needed two putts from about 18 feet.

Hoch, on the front of the green in two, ran his first putt about two feet past the hole and missed the putt coming back.

Impressive

Faldo, who shot an impressive seven-under-par 65 to gain the playoff, looked he was going to finish in second place, but Hoch bogeyed the 17th hole to fall into a tie at five-under par.

The playoff might have included two other players, but Ben Crenshaw and Norman both bogeyed the 72nd hole to finish one shot behind.

Crenshaw, the third-round leader who won the 1984 Masters, was tied with Faldo and Hoch with one hole to play, but he bogeyed the difficult uphill par four to finish with a 71.

Norman, second here in two of the past three years, made a stirring charge at the leaders with four birdies in five holes on the back nine, but then he came up short on the final hole.

The usually talkative Aus-

tralian declined to speak with reporters after his disappointing finish, although he shot an impressive 67.

Faldo played some of the most brilliant golf of his career, especially in the pressure-packed final nine holes, where he birdied four of the last six holes.

Strong bid

Ballesteros also made a strong bid for his third Masters title with a bunch of birdies early in the day, but he faltered at the end with a bogey and double bogey on the back nine.

Ballesteros wound up shooting a final 68 for a 285 total.

American Mike Reid, who had started the final round tied with Hoch for second place, was right up there until the 500-yard 15th hole, which he double bogeyed.

He, too, bogeyed the final hole to close with an even-par 72 which put him alone at 286.

Jody Mudd posted the best round of the tournament on Sunday, a six-under 66, to stand alone at 287.

"Everything that could happen may did," Mudd said. "I played some unbelievable golf shots."

Mudd added that the positions of the holes on the greens were the easiest of the four days.

Jeff Sluman, who won last year's US PGA championship, carded a 68 to finish at level par 288 with Jose-Maria Olazabal of Spain and American Chip Beck, who both finished with a four-under 68.

Solid

One behind them was Fred Couples, who shot a solid 67, Mark O'Meara, who carded 72, and Ken Green who went on over.

Ian Woosnam of Wales, who has never played well in a major championship in this country, managed a three-under 69 final round and he was among those at 290.

Lee Trevino, leader of the first two rounds, partially recovered from a disastrous 81 in the third round to shoot 69 and finish at 291.

He was joined by six-time Masters winner Jack Nicklaus, who finished with a 71. David Frost of South Africa, who shot 70, and Jumbo Ozaki of Japan, who matched par.

Also in that group were US Open champion Strange, who was never really a factor in this tournament, and Texan Tom



Faldo: second major victory

Kite, who had been expected to do well here this week.

Trevino, playing in his 18th Masters, was desperately trying to win his first title here to complete a career Grand Slam of the game's four major championships.

He already has twice won the other three—the US and British Opens and the American PGA Championship.

In La Moye, Jersey, Ireland's

Christy O'Connor Jr won his first European PGA tournament in 14 years yesterday by edging England's Denis Durnan on the first extra hole of a sudden death playoff in the Jersey Open.

O'Connor, who led for most of the final round, bogied the 18th hole to finish level with Durnan on a 7-under-par mark of 281.

But when they went to sudden death in the driving rain, it was Durnan, seeking the first tour

success of his 20-year professional career who went through the back of the 17th green and failed to get up and down.

O'Connor won both the Irish Open and the Martini International in 1975 and those triumphs earned him a Ryder Cup debut.

Now, after collecting the \$42,122 to prize, he is on course for a recall against the Americans in September, having been omitted four years ago.

"It's a long way off yet," the Irishman said. "But I can keep playing as well as I am at the moment I am going to be close."

"I was nervous on the last hole for the first time today," O'Connor said. "My drive was fine, but I didn't want to go over the green or leave myself a 35-foot putt."

PGA classic

In Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Jim Booros won the \$200,000 PGA Deposit Guaranty golf classic yesterday by one stroke when Mike Donald bogied the fourth hole of their sudden death playoff.

The tournament was cut to three rounds by inclement weather, leaving Booros and Donald, who were tied after three rounds, to play off when the rain abated. The two played the 10th and 18th holes of the rain-soaked Hattiesburg Country Club twice. Booros shot a par four on the first two holes, followed by a birdie and another par.

Donald also had two pars and a birdie, but he shot a five on the par-four 18th hole.

On Saturday, the two were two strokes ahead of the field on the 6,280-yard course at 11-under-par 199.

LPGA title

In Poway, California, American Patti Rizzo won her fourth LPGA title with a two-stroke victory over her compatriot American Martha Nause at the \$300,000 Poway Golf Tournament yesterday.

Rizzo, who had a two-under-par 69 on Sunday, finished the three rounds with a 277 total.

Nause had been tied for second until the 18th hole, when she sank a 30-foot putt for birdie to finish at five-under-par for the tournament and in second place alone.

Jane Crafer of Australia and American Juli Inkster finished tied for third place at 280.

TEACHER FOR COMMERCE — ACCOUNTANCY

The New Indian School invites applications from qualified, trained and experienced teachers for teaching Commerce and Accountancy to Senior Secondary classes (XI & XII).

Applications on prescribed forms (obtainable from school office) must reach the school by 30th April, 1989 in envelopes marked "Applications for Teaching Post."

Only applicants having transferable visas should apply. ADMINISTRATOR

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